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THE BRITISH  
MERCHANT:  
A  
Collection of Papers  
RELATING TO THE  
TRADE and COMMERCE  
OF  
GREAT BRITAIN *and* IRELAND.

First Published by Mr. CHARLES KING,  
from the ORIGINALS of Sir THEODORE  
JANSSEN, Bart. Sir CHARLES COOKE, HENRY  
MARTIN, Esq; JAMES MILNER, Esq; Mr. NA-  
THANIEL TORIANO, Mr. JOSHUA GEE, Mr.  
CHRISTOPHER HAYNES, Mr. DAVID MARTIN.  
and Others the most eminent Merchants of the City  
of LONDON.

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V O L. II.

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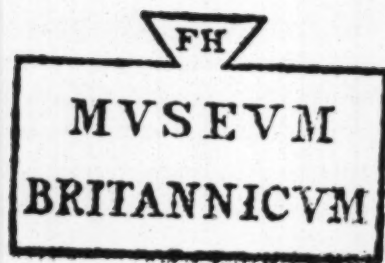
The SECOND EDITION.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for CHARLES MARSH, at *Cicero's Head*, in  
*Round-Court* in the Strand, and THOMAS DAVIES,  
in *Duke's Court*, over-against *St. Martin's Church* in  
*St. Martin's Lane*.





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To the Honourable

*William Pulteney, Esq;*

S I R,



O Man is more sensible than You are, that the Trade of *Great Britain* is the very Axis of Her Wealth and Power, that by this, She is able to turn the Ballance of *Europe* at pleasure : By this, She liberally dispenses Bread to her various Manufacturers, and to all Her industrious Children : By this, She supports the Value of Her Lands, and Her Rents ebb and flow as Her Trade decays or flourishes. And you know, Sir, very well, that all this depends on a right Regulation of Our Trade with *France*; as does the Treasure we gain by Our whole foreign Commerce : Therefore, I beg Leave to shelter this Volume under Your Protection, as the Defence of our Trade, the Subject of the succeeding Sheets, received in the Time of the utmost Danger, the Influence of Your Zeal and Eloquence.

That generous Spirit which obliged You lately, amidst a Universal Corruption, rather to forego the great Improvement of the Fortune You then had in Your Power, than to accumulate Wealth at the Expence of the Publick Credit, ought to be recorded to Your Honour; since You did it at a Time, when almost every Man was led away by the Delusion of Avarice to conspire our Destruction. Continue, Sir, at this Time, Your Endeavours to redress Your injured Country, endeavour to heal the Wounds She has received from her false Friends, and be it Your Praise that You have no other Cause to defend, but that of Vertue. I am,

S I R,

*With the greatest Duty,*

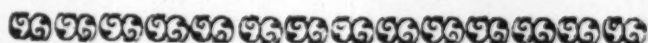
*Your most Obedient, and*

*Most Humble Servant,*

Charles King.



T H E  
*British* Merchant.



*The Trade with France further consider'd.*



Published in my first Volume an Account of all the Imports and Exports between *France* and *England*, with such a Valuation of Particulars as made the Imports about 1,284,000 *l.* the Exports about 515,000 *l.* by which the Ballance against us was about 770,000 *l.* besides what was made by Goods clandestinely imported, which I suppos'd might be equal to a third Part of all that were fairly enter'd.

The *Mercator*, to get rid of this prodigious Ballance, had recourse to the most extraordi-

V O L. II.

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nary Means in the World. By an extravagant Undervaluation of our Imports he reduced them to 889,904 *l.* and by as extravagant an Overvaluation of our Exports, he rais'd them to 742,077 *l.* which still leaves against him a Ballance of 147,826 *l.*

*Ballance of  
the French  
Trade a-  
gainst us by  
their own  
Accounts.*

To make the Ballance that very Year on our Side, he has added, that we gain'd 500,000 *l.* by exporting our Goods to *France* in our own Shipping; 400,000 *l.* by Goods exported by the Way of *Flanders* and *Holland*; 64,200 *l.* by Advance upon the Sale of our Goods in *France*; and 50,000 *l.* for Corn. The Absurdity of every one of these Additions I have demonstrated, as I shall hereafter of his over and under Valuations.

*We imported  
no Materi-  
als for Ma-  
nufactures,  
only things  
of Luxury.*

I must therefore here ask what were the Goods we imported for so much Money, to convince us that it was not lost, or, that so much of our Treasure was not exhausted? Had we any naval Stores from *France*, as we have from the East-Country? Had we any Goods from thence, which we exported afterwards to other Countries, as we do those of the *East-Indies*? Had we any Wool, or other unwrought Materials, which were either necessary or useful in any of our Manufactures, by the Exportation of which we regain'd the Money we paid to *France*? Not any one of all these things; but Wines, Brandies, Kid-Skins, Paper, Prunes, Linen, and wrought Silk, and such like Goods as were all consumed in *England*, and which could no way make us amends for our Loss by that Trade.

## The Trade with France.

3

But the Payment of a Ballance to *France*, is not the worst of our Condition with respect to our Treasure. If the Bill of Commerce should pass, the Goods we shall import from *France* will be so far from re-paying us the Ballance we shall send thither, that they cannot chuse but stop those Streams of Money which are every Day flowing into this Kingdom, by the Ballance of our Trade with other Countries. For if we should abate of the Consumption of other Countries, from whence we receive a Ballance, will they contentedly take off as many of our Manufactures as they did before, and pay us still so much the greater Ballance? No certainly, it is much more reasonable to imagine that they will retaliate upon us by Prohibitions and high Duties, till we shall be able to gain nothing from them by the Over-Ballance of our Manufactures. For Example;

If the Bill of Commerce should pass, should we not consume more of the *French Wines*? And should we not abate in proportion of those of *Portugal* and *Italy*? And would not those Countries then prohibit our Goods, to prevent the Payment of the Ballance? Again, would not this Treaty of Commerce, if made effectual, increase our Consumption of *French* wrought Silk and Paper? And should we not consume so much the less of those of *Italy* and *Holland*? And lastly, would not our Consumption of *French Linen* be increas'd, and that of *Holland, Germany, and Flanders* be abated? And why should we imagine that these Countries will not abate of their Consumption of our Manufactures? or that they will not retali-

*The Payment of a Ballance to France not the worst part of our Condition.*

*Wines and Manufactures from France, prevent the like from other Countries.*



liate upon us by Prohibitions and high Duties, to make the Account of Exports and Imports even, and that they may not pay us any Balance? It is a very dangerous thing to provoke the Nations that pay us Money, and which have it in their Power to pay us none.

*Our Gain by  
the Balance  
of Trade.*

We gain a Million every Year by the Balance of our Trade with *Portugal* and *Italy*, and near twice as much by that with *Flanders*, *Germany*, and *Holland*: and shall we venture losing the Gain of three Millions every Year from those Countries, not for the sake of gaining, but of losing a fourth Million every Year to *France*? But, I think, I have said enough to shew my Readers, when it is that a Trade with any particular Country shall be said to exhaust our Treasures, and how they ought to try the *French* Trade by that Rule.

*The Employ-  
ment of our  
People a  
Rule to  
judge of a  
gainful  
Trade.*

Next to the Increase and Decrease of our Treasure, which I have treated of, the Employment and Subsistence of our People is an infallible Rule, by which to judge whether our Trade with any particular Country is beneficial or detrimental to the Nation.

If by means of the *French* Trade greater Numbers of our People can be employed and subsisted, and in a better manner than can be done without it, it is certainly for our Advantage: On the contrary, if by reason of that Trade there shall be less Employment and Subsistence for our People than was before, every one ought to conclude that it is *detrimental*, that it is a *Nusance to this Kingdom*.

Our Legislators, as appears by the Preamble to the Prohibition Act, 30 Car. II. condemned

demned the *French Trade* by this very Rule : This is implied in the words, *Lessened the Value of the native Manufactures and Commodities thereof*. Here in plain words that Trade is charged with having lessened the Value of the Manufactures and Commodities of this Nation.

Now what are our Manufactures and Commodities, but the Labour or Employment of our People, and the Fruits or Product of our Lands ? The last I shall speak to hereafter, the former shall be my present Subject.

It is not possible the *French Trade* should lessen the Value of *English Labour*, without lessening at the same time the whole Quantity of our Labour, and the Wages that are given for it; in both which Cases there is so much the less Employment and Subsistence for our People. This therefore is the very thing that was intended by our Legislators, and was one of their Reasons for prohibiting that Trade.

*Reasons for  
Prohibiting  
the French  
Trade.*

But how shall it be proved, that it lessened the Employment and Subsistence of our People ? The first Charge against it, that it exhausted our Treasure, will prove a great Part of the second, that it lessened the Employment and Subsistence of our People.

The *French Trade* exhausted our Treasure. How ? By bringing in upon us a great Overbalance of the Manufactures of that Country ; and by taking from us the Ballance in Money, and not in the Goods and Manufactures of our own. It was not possible but such a Quantity of Goods, brought to the same Market, must needs lessen the Value of our own.

*In what  
case our  
People are  
deprived of  
their Subsistence.*

Suppose, for Argument sake, our Trade with *France* stood thus, that we could sell nothing at all to that Nation, and that on the contrary she sold every Year the Value of a Million of her Manufactures to this Kingdom: (I do not affirm, that this is the very Case, yet for Argument sake I hope I may suppose it without any offence.) If *France* would take off none of our Goods, could the Value of a Million of Manufactures be imported from that Country, without lessening our own to that Value? What sort of Goods would *France* be able to send hither, that could not lessen the Value of our own? What other Manufactures to this Value besides Wine, Brandy, Linen, wrought Silk, Thred, Paper; every one of which is either made by ourselves, or imported from other Countries in exchange for our Manufactures, and which we can have no assurance of selling to those Countries but for such Exchange?

I ask any Man, Would it be possible for us to import from *France* in this Case the Value of 500,000 *l.* in Brandy, Linen, wrought Silk, and Paper, without lessening our own Spirits, Linen, wrought Silk, and Paper to that Value? And is it not clear in this Case, that so many of our own People must be deprived of their Subsistence, as are now employed in the above-mentioned Manufactures? That the Employment and Subsistence, by Manufactures, of the Value of 500,000 *l.* must be taken from our People since they are not to be employed to make any at all for *France*, which by the very Supposition will take none at all from this Kingdom? A-

Again, If we should take off from that Nation another 500,000 *l.* Value of Wine, and all other the above-mentioned Goods, not instead of those which we make ourselves, but instead of those which we import from other Countries in exchange for our Manufactures, which is the same thing as if we made them ourselves, since we make the Goods which are exchanged for them ; should we not cease in this Case taking that Value in those Goods from those other Countries ? And would not they abate of their Consumption of the like Value of our Manufactures ? And would not our own People by this means also be deprived of such a Proportion of their Employment and Subsistence as is gained by making 500,000 *l.* Value of Manufactures ? If *France* were to sell us yearly a Million Value, and should buy none at all from us, the Case was past dispute ; both the Quantity and the Wages of *English* Labour must be lessened, our People must lose as much of their Employment and Subsistence as is gained from so great a Value of Manufactures. The *French* Trade, by exhausting our Treasure in this manner, by selling us Manufactures and buying none, could not chuse but deprive our People of their Employment and Subsistence. So that if that Trade is guilty of the first Charge of our Legislators, it can never be innocent of the second, of lessening the Employment and Subsistence of our People.

But the *French* Trade is not condemned of buying none of our Manufactures, but only of selling us an Over-balance of their own, and of exhausting so much of our Treasure as is ne-

cessary to discharge the Over-balance : And how will this effect the Labour or Subsistence of our People ? As for example, if we were to sell to *France* the Value of 200,000 *l.* in Manufactures, and to buy from thence the Value of 1,200,000 *l.* as much of our Treasure would be exhausted in this Case as in the former. But the Question is, how much would be taken from the Labour and Subsistence of our People ? I affirm, that just as much as if we were to import a Million Value of their Manufactures, and to export none at all to that Country.

For the 200,000 *l.* Value of Manufactures, which by this Supposition we export to *France*, can employ no more of our People, than 200,000 *l.* (part of the 1,200,000 *l.* Value we import from thence) can employ and subsist in that Nation.

And therefore the remaining Million Value, for which we must pay in Money, and which exhausts so much of our Treasure, must, as in the former Case, deprive our People of making such a Value of the same Manufactures, or of making others here to purchase the like of those we import from *France* : So that whether we buy a Million Value, and can sell none, or buy the Value of 1,200,000 *l.* and can sell no more than 200,000 *l.* it all comes to the same thing ; our People are deprived of as much of their Employment and Subsistence the one way as the other.

But after all, if it could be said in defence of the *French* Trade, That it makes the Account even between both the Nations ; that we could  
sell



sell to *France* as great a Value of Manufactures as we take from her ; should we not be Losers ? Should we not lessen the Employment and Subsistence of our People by such a Ballancing of Accounts ? The Answer to these Questions will depend very much upon the Knowledge of the Treasure and Employment we gain by our Trade with other Countries, and how much that with *France* is likely to interfere with that Gain.

For, First, if we gain above a Million Sterling every Year by the Ballance of our Trade with *Portugal* and *Italy*, and as much Employment and Subsistence for our People as is usual by making such a Value of Manufactures ; and if, by means of the *French* Trade, we shall lose the sending all this Over-ballance to those Countries ; then so many of our People will be deprived of this Employment.

If also, by means of that Trade, we should cease exporting twice as great an Over-ballance of Manufactures to *Flanders*, *Germany*, and *Holland*, this would be the Loss of Employment and Subsistence for twice as many of our People.

Let me ask them, Should we not cease exporting that vast Over-ballance to those Countries, if the Treaty of Commerce with *France* should be made effectual ? Should we not increase our Importations from *France*, by reducing the Duties upon them to an Equality with those upon the like Goods of other Countries, and in some Cases below that Equality ? And should we not abate of our Importations from other Countries in proportion to the Increase of those from *France* ? And would those



Countries in such a Case contentedly pay for that vast Over-balance such Sums as they do now to the Labour of our Poor? Would they not save those prodigious Sums which they now pay to our Manufactures, for the Employment and Subsistence of their own People?

*Portugal* especially, which has bound herself by Treaty to admit all our *Woollen Cloths*, and other *Woollen Manufactures*, and never to prohibit any of them as long as we take their Wines, and lay no more upon them than two thirds of the Duties which we do upon those of *France*; I say, whensoever we shall alter this Proportion, as we should do by making effectual our *French Treaty*, she has reserved to herself the Liberty of prohibiting all our *Woollen Manufactures*. And can any one be so senseless as to think she will not make use of this Liberty? Will she contentedly pay the present Ballance, or a greater than she does at present? Will she let her own People starve for want of those Sums which now, even by her Treaty, she cannot help paying to the Employment and Subsistence of our *English* Manufacturers?

*Ballance  
gain'd by  
Portugal.*

There is good Reason to believe, that *Portugal* pays us a Million every Year upon the Ballance of Trade, and every Shilling of this for the Labour of our People, or the Product of our Lands. But certainly I was not out of the way when I affirmed, That we gain'd above a Million every Year by the Ballance of our Trade with *Portugal* and *Italy*.

*By Holland.*

*Dr. Davenant*, the Inspector-General, in his second Report, has shewn, by a Medium  
of

of seven Years Exports and Imports between *England* and *Holland*, that our Gain from that Country was 1,388,102 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.* Half-penny.

He has also told us, that by the like Medium our Gain from *Germany* was 161,270 *l.* By *Germany*.  
By the *Netherlands*.

And probably the Ballance coming to us from the *Spanish Netherlands* will be believed to be twice as great as our Gain from *Germany*.

And how little do all these Sums want of three Millions? and all this paid to us for the Product of our Lands, or the Labour of our People, except what was paid for the *East-India* Goods, which were re-exported to those Countries; and even a great part of the Price of the latter paid for the Labour of our People, which were employ'd in importing and re-exporting those Goods.

But how great a part of these three Millions was paid to the Labour of our People? Perhaps four parts in five of the whole Sum will be thought reasonable to be allowed to this Account, which at 4 *l.* per Head, the common yearly Earnings of Men, Women, and Children in the Country, at a Medium, is the Maintenance of 600,000 of our People. Four fifths of  
our Ballance  
goes to La-  
bour, and  
subsists 600,  
000 People.

And shall we venture the losing of such a Ballance, the Subsistence of such Numbers, for a Trade, which, though the Exports and Imports should be even, would add nothing to the Employment of our Poor?

I shall convince my Readers, that we have lost a Million yearly upon the Ballance of that Trade; and that, if our late Treaty of Commerce

merce should be made effectual, our annual Loss to that Country will be much greater.

*The Subsistence of 200,000 People, would be lost by opening the French Trade.*

And for what can this prodigious Sum be paid to *France*, but for the Over-balance of Manufactures she is to send hither, and which must therefore put a stop to such a Value of our own, and to the Labour of 200,000 of our People, who are employ'd and subsisted by so vast a Value of Manufactures?

If such is the Consequence of the *French Trade*, if it shall deprive such vast Numbers of their Employment and Subsistence directly, by pouring in upon us such an Over-balance of Manufactures, to the hindrance of our own, and much greater Numbers, indirectly, by hindering the Exportation of so vast an Over-balance of our Manufactures to other Countries; our Legislators, as in the above-mentioned Preamble, had very good reason to charge that Trade with lessening the Value of our Manufactures, that is, with lessening the Employment and Subsistence of our People: And, no doubt, the Rule by which our Legislators, in the Reign of King *Charles II.* condemned that Trade, will be a Rule for all our future Legislators.

Whatsoever Proofs I bring that our Gold and Silver are carried out by the Ballance of that Trade, or that the Manufactures imported from *France* must lessen the Employment of our own People, or the Value of the Product of our Lands, are so many Arguments to make good the general Propositions of the Preamble of the Prohibition Act, 30 *Car. II.*

And

And if it shall be endeavoured to persuade People, that the Ballance of this Trade has not been against us, by over-valuing our Exports, and undervaluing our Imports ; it tends to the same Argument, that is, to the defence of those general Propositions, if I bring Evidence to disprove any such false Valuations ; which I shall now do.

I had valued certain Exports of our Woollen Manufactures at less than 37,000 *l.* The *Mercator* has raised them to above 60,000 *l.* To take off his Over-valuation, to the making good my main Argument. And this I shall do in a few Instances, by the help of a Letter I have received from *Exeter*, and which is as follows.

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,                      Exon, Oct. 31. 1713.

“ WE have had your *British Merchant* Exeter Ma-  
nufactures,  
and their  
Rates.  
“ here, in Answer to the *Mercator* ;  
“ in your Paper, Numb. 14. you have fa-  
“ vour’d us with the Imports and Exports be-  
“ tween *France* and *England*, for the Year  
“ 1685 to 1686. we have also had his Obser-  
“ vations on the rating such Goods as con-  
“ cerns our Manufactory. In your Paper,  
“ Numb. 14. we find you have rated 81557  
“ Ells Serges, sent that Year to *France*, at  
“ one Shilling and 10 Pence *per* Ell ; the  
“ *Mercator* has turned the same into Yards,  
“ and instead of rating them at one Shilling  
“ and ten Pence *per* Ell, he rates them at 3  
“ Shillings *per* Yard. Now inasmuch as he  
“ has

4 Sorts of  
Serges at  
Exeter.

“ has appealed to us in this Affair, we shall  
 “ put that Part which relates to us in a true  
 “ Light between you. You must therefore  
 “ understand, that there are four sorts of  
 “ Serges made amongst us that are principally  
 “ sold ; the first is a small sort of Goods that  
 “ contains about 19 or 19 and a half Yards in  
 “ a Piece, and are sold at 19 s. to 20 s. 6 d.  
 “ per Piece ; the next sort holds about 21  
 “ Yards, and are now sold from 25 s. to 26 s.  
 “ per Piece ; another sort holds 22 Yards,  
 “ and are sold at about 31 s. to 32 s. per  
 “ Piece : but the very best sort of all holds a-  
 “ bout 22 and a half Yards to 23 Yards, and  
 “ are sold at 36 s. per Piece. You must add  
 “ to this Price 20 d. for the dressing each  
 “ Piece ; so the first sort will stand us about  
 “ 13 d. half-penny per Yard ; the next will  
 “ stand us about 16 d. per Yard ; the next  
 “ sort, which we call the best Seconds, will  
 “ stand in about 18 d. per Yard ; and the best  
 “ sort of all at about 20 d. half-penny per  
 “ Yard.

Their Value  
in 1685 the  
same as now.

“ There are great Quantities shipped off  
 “ from our Port, but much a greater Quan-  
 “ tity of the sort from 25 s. to 26 s. than of  
 “ all the other 3 sorts put together ; so that  
 “ you have exceeded the Value at 22 d. per  
 “ Ell, as our Markets have been for several  
 “ Years past ; and if you, or the *Mercator*,  
 “ will give yourselves the trouble to search,  
 “ we believe you will not find any material  
 “ Difference between our present Prices and  
 “ the Prices in 1685. We find you have valued  
 “ our Perpets by the Pound instead of the Piece,  
 “ which



“ which is our customary way of selling them;  
 “ you have valued them in your Account of  
 “ Exports at 2 s. 6 d. but the *Mercator* finds  
 “ fault with your Valuations, and makes his at  
 “ 2 l. 10 s. per Piece of 10 lib. per Piece, which  
 “ is 5 s. per Pound Weight. You must note, we  
 “ have a great many sorts of Perpets, and some  
 “ of very ordinary Wool ; and therefore in  
 “ this Case you must not take it amiss, if (ex-  
 “ cluding the coarsest sorts) we give the cast  
 “ in favour of the *Mercator*, and only menti-  
 “ on the best made in two of our chief Ma-  
 “ nufactory Towns, that is, *Crediton* and  
 “ *Sandford* ; the best *Creditons* are now worth  
 “ about 26 s. per Piece, and hold 15 Pound  
 “ Weight one with another ; the best *Sand-*  
 “ *fords* are now worth about 29 s. 3 d. per  
 “ Piece, and weigh about 16 Pound and a  
 “ half one with another. You must add to  
 “ this 20 d. per Piece dressing, but still this  
 “ will not bring the *Crediton* Perpets above  
 “ 22 d. farthing per Pound, nor the *Sandfords*  
 “ above 23 d. farthing per Pound ; so that  
 “ your Valuation at 2 s. 6 d. per Pound ; is  
 “ above a fifth Part more than their Value  
 “ according to our present Market.

“ We find in your *British Merchant*, the  
 “ next Article to your Serges, 40800 Pounds  
 “ Stuffs, Woollens, all valued by you at 2 s.  
 “ per Pound ; if it be really Woollen-Stuffs,  
 “ as you say, we can see no reason for any  
 “ such Price, since our Perpets that are all  
 “ worsted Chains, and only the Shute of  
 “ Woollen Yarn, don't come to the Money.  
 “ The *Mercator* charges the very same Weight  
 “ you



Portugal  
Gold the  
chief Cur-  
rent Money  
at Exeter.

“ you do, but does not put in the word Wool-  
 “ len ; by which means we must suppose he  
 “ intends to be understood that the said 40800  
 “ Pounds of Stuff is Worsted Stuff, for he  
 “ values it at 3 s. *per* Pound. ’Tis plain that  
 “ either the *Mercator* or you have endeavour’d  
 “ to impose on the Publick ; which of you,  
 “ we shall not determine : but whether that  
 “ you are guilty of adding the word *Woollen*,  
 “ or the *Mercator* in leaving it out, when so  
 “ fairly printed in your Paper, is done with  
 “ design to impose on the Nation, and there-  
 “ fore would be either Forgery in you, or  
 “ Villany in him ; and therefore we expect  
 “ you clear, or condemn your self. We  
 “ heartily thank you for printing the *Portugal*  
 “ Treaty, for now we plainly see the preserv-  
 “ ing that Trade is preserving us our Bread,  
 “ and that breaking that Treaty will be our  
 “ Ruin, for we have hardly any other Mo-  
 “ ney current amongst us but *Portugal* Gold.  
 “ Sir, we are, in behalf of the Manufactures  
 “ of this Country,

*Your Humble Servants.*

In the first place I make my Acknowledg-  
 ments to the Gentlemen who sent me this  
 Letter, and I shall be obliged to every other  
 Person who shall send the like Informations.  
 By this means we may come to have an exact  
 Account of the Imports and Exports between  
 both the Nations, and such a one as cannot be  
 contested by the one Side or the other.

In the next place I am bound to answer a  
 Question of my Correspondents, and to clear  
 my

my self of an Imputation, which till I do it, may belong as well to my self as to the *Mercator*. I had valued *Woollen Stuffs* at 2s. per *lib.* which my Correspondents own to be right, the *Mercator* has valued *Stuffs*, without the Addition of *Woollen*, which perhaps too may be right, if they shall be understood to be of *Worsted*; they say if I have falsly added the word *Woollen*, it is Forgery in me, or Villany in the *Mercator*, if he has falsly left it out, to impose the belief of their being *Worsted* upon the Nation. The very *Custom-house* Account therefore which was laid before the last Parliament, must answer this Question of my Correspondents. The Articles in the present Dispute between us stand thus in that Account.

Serges and Perpets	7,672 Pieces.
Perpets	79,723 Lib.
Serges	81,557 Ells.
Stuffs WOOLLEN	40,800 Lib.

Behold here Stuffs WOOLLEN in legible Characters returned from the *Custom-house*! So that my Correspondents are at liberty to think of the *Mercator* as they please. All that I have done, is to add two other Columns to these above-mentioned, viz. the Valuation of the Species, and the value of the Parcels. So my Account stands thus.

Serges

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Serges and Per.	7,672 Pc.	2 <i>l.</i> per pce	15,344	00	
Perpets	79,723 Lib.	2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per lib.	9,965	76	
Serges	81,557 Ells	1 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> per Ell	7,476	12	
Stuffs woollen	40,800 Lib.	2 <i>s.</i> per Lib.	4,080	00	

By which I made the total Value of those  
Exports ————— 36,865 8 8

The *Mercator's* Account stands thus.

7,672 pce	Ser. and Per.	2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> per Pc.	19,180
	Ditto being		
7,972 pce	79,723 lib.	2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> per Pc.	19,930
	at 10 lib.		
	to a Piece		
101,946 Yds	Ditto Serges	3 <i>s.</i> per Yard	15,291
40,800 lib.	Stuffs	3 <i>s.</i> per Lib.	6,120

By which the total Value of those Ex-  
ports is ————— 60,521

And exceeds mine in the Sum of 23,655 11 4

I ask the *Mercator* now how he came to value Serges and Perpets at 2 *l.* 10 *s.* per Piece. He answers No 63. that he has taken his Valuation from the Old Scheme? to which he has pretended to give so many mortal Stabs. But it helps him to 25 per Cent. for his Perpets and Serges more than he could get any other way; so he submits to the Argument, and the old Scheme begins to be a good Authority with him.

*A Fallacy  
in the Valuation of  
Perpets.*

Again, he is so in love with Perpets at 2 *l.* 10 *s.* that he turns 79,723 Lib. weight of Perpets in the second Article into Pieces, and cannot be contented to leave them in Pounds as they are returned by the *Custom-house*; but why

why 79,723 Lib. make 7,972 Pieces? why because he will allow no more than 10 Lib. to a Piece: And why no more than 10 Lib. to a Piece, when my *Exeter* Correspondents say there are at least 15 Lib. to a Piece? The reason was, he could make half as many more Pieces at 10 Lib. to a Piece, as he could at 15. And since he has the Authority of the old Scheme for valuing every Piece at 2 *l.* 10 *s.* it would swell the Account, to multiply the Pieces. If he had look'd back to his No. 25. it would have taught him better, but his Hopes was that I had not so good a Memory. But why not value this Article by the Pound as I have done? No, by turning his Pounds into Pieces, he has made his second Article 19,930 *l.* which I have made no more than 9,965 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* and every Pound 5 *s.* which I have made but 2 *s.* 6 *d.* which is yet above 25 *per Cent.* too much in the Opinion of my Correspondents. He has therefore chosen his Method of turning the Pounds into Pieces, that 5 *s.* *per* Lib. might not shock his Readers, and because 50 *s.* *per* Piece would serve his Purpose as well, and was less likely to be observed. But could he think he should not be observed?

Again, I must ask this Person, why he has not valued the 81557 Ells of Serges by the Ell, as returned from the *Custom-house*? and why he has turned them into 101946 Yards, and valued them at 3 *s.* *per* Yard? First, the greater Number of Figures, it makes so much the better show; but this was not the whole Reason, I had valued them at 22 *d.* *per* Ell; and if the *Mercator* shou'd have made them

45 *d.*

*The British Merchant.*

45 *d.* per Ell, it would have been shocking. He has therefore turn'd them into Yards, and valued the Serges at 3 *s.* per Yard, which amounts to the same thing, and was less likely to be observ'd.

As for *Woollen* Stuffs, he could have no reason to leave out the word *Woollen*, but that his Readers shou'd believe they were *Worsted*, and not think his Valuation extravagant, as is observ'd by my Correspondents.

But 'tis time now that these Gentlemen should determine how much ought to be taken off from the above-mentioned 60521 *l.* of the *Mercator*: According to their Opinion, the Account ought to stand thus.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
7672 Pieces Serges and Perpets together, at 30 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per Piece	11699	16	0
79723 <i>lib.</i> of Perpets at 15 <i>lib.</i> per Piece, making 5315 Pieces, at 29 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> per Piece	7795	6	8
81557 Ells, or 101946 Yards of Serges at 16 <i>s.</i> two thirds per Yard	7079	11	4
40800 <i>lib.</i> <i>Woollen</i> Stuffs valued alike by me and my Correspondents at 2 <i>s.</i> per <i>lib.</i>	4080	0	0
Total Sum	30654	12	0

Mercator  
condemned  
by the Exe-  
ter Serge-  
makers.

Which is less than my Valuation by 6210 *l.* 15 *s.* 4 *d.* So that 'tis plain in their Opinion I have not undervalued these Articles; but the *Mercator* has appeal'd to the Serge-makers of *Exeter*, and they have here condemn'd him of over-valuing these few Articles in the Sum of 29866 *l.*



## The Trade with France.

21

29866 l. 8 s. enough in Conscience for so small a Value of Goods.

I come next to consider,

1. *The Conclusion of the Exeter Letter.*
2. *To give an Extract of a Letter from Lisbon.*
3. *Offer Reasons against breaking the Portugal Treaty.*
4. *Shew that France proposes to serve Portugal with Woollen Manufactures. And,*
5. *That the Province of Picardy in France sold annually to Holland the Value of a Million and a half of Woollen Yarn.*

THE Conclusion of the Letter from my Correspondents at *Exeter*, is so remarkable, that I think myself obliged to repeat it.

“ We heartily thank you for printing the *Portugal Treaty* in your second Paper ; for now we plainly see the preserving that Treaty, is preserving us our Bread, and that breaking that Treaty will be our Ruin, for we have hardly any other Money current among us but *Portugal Gold*.

*The Advantage of our Treaty with Portugal.*

What ! almost no other Money current in *Exeter*, one of the chief Trading Cities in the West of *England*, but *Portugal Gold* ! and not alter'd to the Coin of *Great Britain* ! But I have heard that the Case is the same in all the Trading Places of *Devonshire* and *Cornwall*. And yet I presented my Readers with the Coinage of Gold in the Mint from the 21st of *August* 1710, to the 7th of *August* 1713, which amounted to 1,055,328 l. 17 s. 6 d. almost the

*Portuguese Gold current all over Devonshire and Cornwall,*



the whole from *Moidores* of *Portugal*. And besides this Money, what prodigious Quantities of Gold have been kept back in that Kingdom for the Payment of our Armies there and in *Catalonia*? And what Quantities have been also re-exported to our Forces in the *Netherlands*? Such Quantities coined in the Mint! such Quantities paid abroad! and yet is there still enough of it left to be almost the only current Money in our Trading Western Counties? And what are all these Sums but the Ballance of our Trade with that Kingdom? And for what was all this Ballance paid, but the Product of our Lands, and the Labour of our People? And is such a Trade as this to be abandoned? or would they have us give it up for a Trade which has been condemned by King *Charles* the Second and his Parliament, of exhausting our Treasures, and lessening the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures?

And yet passing the Bill of Commerce, rendering the *French* Treaty effectual, is breaking our Treaty of Commerce with *Portugal*, is the Destruction of that Trade which has been so beneficial to this Kingdom. But since I have begun to print Letters, a *Portugal* Merchant has been pleased to shew me a Letter which he has very lately received from his Correspondent at *Lisbon*, and has been so kind as to suffer me to take from it an Extract, which is as follows.

*EXTRACT.*

E X T R A C T.

S I R, *Lisbon, Nov. 7. 1713.*

" I Wrote you a few Lines the 20th ult.  
 " Since which are come in the *Betty, John*  
 " *Moore*; and *Cooper Galley, John Hammer-*  
 " *ton, &c.*" And after acknowledging the Re-  
 cept of several Bales of Woollen Goods by those  
 Ships, he goes on :

" I now find myself honour'd with yours of  
 " Oct. 6. and perceive you intend 20 Bales  
 " more by the *Mary, Capt. Field*. I am of  
 " Opinion you had as good stop your Hands,  
 " at least send sparingly, till I can give you  
 " some more certain News about the *Brazil*  
 " Ships, and that you find what will be done  
 " in your Parliament in relation to the *French*  
 " Trade ; for I dread their taking some Re-  
 " solutions that will prove destructive to this.  
 " Thus far you may depend on, that if the  
 " Bill in favour of the *French Commerce* pas-  
 " ses, this Court will do their utmost to op-  
 " press the *English Trade* ; and it's much to  
 " be feared, that the Treaty being broken by  
 " us, they will not be content to prohibit  
 " Cloths only, but proceed to forbid Bays  
 " and other Goods, which the *French* are pro-  
 " posing to bring hither, and are representing  
 " how much more advantageous to *Portugal* a  
 " Trade with *France* would be than with *Eng-*  
 " *land, France* taking off great Quantities of  
 " their Sugars and Tobacco, and *England*  
 " nothing but their Gold, except it be  
 " some

*The Portu-  
 guese de-  
 sign'd to  
 oppress our  
 Trade, if  
 the French  
 Bill of Com-  
 merce pass'd.*

*The French  
 Representa-  
 tion in be-  
 half of  
 theirs to  
 Portugal  
 against the  
 English.*

“ some Wine and Fruit, which does amount  
 “ but to a small Part of the Trade. And as I  
 “ should be sorry you should engage in this  
 “ Trade with any Disadvantage, I give it as  
 “ my Opinion, that one cannot act too cau-  
 “ tiously in it at present.

*I am, &c.*

Here is a Factor at *Lisbon*, who advises his Principal to send him no more Bales of Goods, or to send but very sparingly. A Factor advise this ! who is to have the Profit of his Commission, and who can lose nothing by the Goods that are consign'd to him ! Certainly the Apprehension of Loss must be very great to his Principal, that to save him from the Hazard only, a Factor can satisfy himself to part with a certain Profit.

And what are the Apprehensions of this Gentleman ? *He dreads the Parliament's taken some Resolutions here, which will prove destructive to the Trade of Portugal.* For my own part, I am not able to dread any such thing. A *British* Parliament take Resolutions destructive to the Trade of *Portugal* ! a Trade which has brought above 350,000 *per ann.* into our Mint, furnished much greater yearly Sums to the Payment of our Armies in *Portugal*, *Spain*, and *Flanders*, and moreover provided our Western Counties with almost all their present current Money ! Will any Members of either *Cornwall* or *Devonshire* give their Votes for the Destruction of such a Trade ? Or is it possible that a *British* Parliament can ever be guilty of such a Thought ? Did King *Charles II.* and his Parliament

Portugal  
 Gold coin'd  
 yearly in our  
 Mint.

liament condemn the *French Trade* for *exhausting our Treasure* ; and will any other Parliament destroy the Trade of *Portugal*, for having gained so vast a Treasure to this Nation ?

Again, for want have all these yearly Sums been paid by *Portugal*, but for our Perpets and our Serges, for our Cloths, our Bays and other Manufactures ; in short, for the Product of our Lands, and the Labour of our People ? Has she not paid all this Money either to the Rents of the Gentlemen, or for the Employment and Subsistence of our Poor ? And has she not by this means raised the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures ? And shall the Trade be destroyed which has done this, and destroyed too by a *British* Parliament ? Could the Parliament of King *Charles II.* condemn the *French Trade* for *lessening the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures*, for lessening the Employment and Subsistence of our People ? And can it be imagined that any other Parliament will do any thing to destroy the Trade with *Portugal*, for being the Reverse of that with *France*, for increasing the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures, for increasing the Employment and Subsistence of our People ? A *British* Parliament do this ! it is not possible to be suspected.

But what Resolutions does he apprehend the Parliament can take, which will prove destructive to our Trade with *Portugal* ? he assures us, he bids us *depend upon it, that if the Bill in favour of the French Commerce passes, the Court of Portugal will do her utmost to oppress the English Trade* ; and that our *Treaty* with that Nati-

on being broken by us, she will not be content to prohibit our Cloths only, but to proceed to forbid our Bays and other Goods. And what should hinder her? Before she had tied up her Hands by a Treaty, had she not the Right of a Sovereign Prince, as my Antagonists have said, to prohibit all or any of our Manufactures? Is she restrained from exercising this Right any otherwise than by a Treaty? And will not the Breach of the Treaty on our part, restore her to the Power of exercising this Right? But besides that, she will be restored to this Power by the Breach, tho' there were no Clause in the very Treaty, to this effect, that if it shall be broken by us, *it shall be again lawful for the King of Portugal to prohibit not only our Woollen Cloths, but all the rest of our Woollen Manufactures.* Has Portugal expressly reserved to herself such a Liberty without any design to make use of it? No, we may satisfy ourselves, that upon the first Breach of the Treaty she will retaliate upon us by a Prohibition of all our Woollen Manufactures: And then there is an End of all that annual Ballance which is paid to this Kingdom; there is an End of that Trade which has so much increased our Treasure, and raised the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures. The Reduction of the Duties upon *French Wines* is a Breach of that Treaty, and restores *Portugal* to the Right of prohibiting all our Woollen Manufactures. But then this Reduction cannot be made but by a *British* Parliament; and does he imagine, that a *British* Parliament will ever break a Treaty, and in consequence of that Breach



Breach destroy a Trade so beneficial to this Nation, and this in favour of the *French* Commerce, which stands convicted by an *English* Parliament of *exhausting our Treasure, and lessening the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures?*

This Gentleman bids us depend upon a Prohibition, not only of our Woollen Cloths, but of our Bays and other Goods, if the Commerce Bill should pass. My Antagonists are of another Opinion; Woollen Goods, say they, the *Portuguese* must have; and from what other Nation can they be supply'd? So that, in their Opinion, we may safely break the *Portugal* Treaty; that Nation will still be obliged to take off our Woollen Goods, and consequently must still contribute as much as she did before to the Increase of our Treasure, and to the raising the Value of our native Commodities and Manufactures. They differ very much from this *Lisbon* Correspondent. This Gentleman endeavours to persuade us, that the *French* are at this very Juncture of Time proposing to serve the *Portuguese* with Cloths, Bays, and other Goods; and representing to them how much more beneficial it would be for them to trade with *France* than with *England*, and how much greater Quantities of Goods *France* would take off from that Country.

My Antagonist no doubt will laugh at Woollen Manufactures from *France*. "Let us see  
" now, say they No. 67, their Dogs-Hair  
" Broad Cloth, their rough half-dress'd Drug-  
" gets, their unshorn Dozens, their Cabbage



“ Net Bays, and let them be match'd with  
 “ the *English* Goods of the same Denomina-  
 “ tion.” They write with such an Air of  
 Confidence, that one would almost believe  
 there is no Mutton at all in *France*, or that  
 their Sheep wore no Fleeces. Now if I should  
 produce a hundred living Witnesſes, that Wool,  
 and not Dogs-Hair, grows on the Backs of the  
*French* Sheep, they would call them all Parties  
 againſt the Bill of Commerce. I ſhall therefore  
 give them a Witneſs that has been dead above  
 this forty Years. It is the *Maxims of Holland*  
 by the famous Monsieur *De Wit*. The Book  
 has been many Years tranſlated into the *English*  
 Language, and neither the Author nor Tranſla-  
 tor can be ſuſpected of Partiality in this Cauſe.

Picardy ſold  
 a Million  
 and a half  
 of Livres in  
 Woollen to  
 Holland,  
 per ann.

In the 7th Chap. 2d Part, among the Goods  
 which *Holland* annually brought from *France*,  
 we read WOOLLEN YARN SPUN IN  
 ALL PARTS OF PICARDY, WORTH  
 MORE THAN ONE MILLION AND  
 A HALF.

WOOLLEN YARN worth a Million  
 and a Half of Livres, purchaſed annually from  
 one *French* Province only, and yet is there no  
 Wool at all in *France*? To ſuch Abſurdities  
 are Men reduced, who write only for Hire,  
 and without Reason on their ſide.

Upon the whole, the *Liſbon* Factor has juſt  
 reaſon to give ſuch Advice as he has done to his  
 Correſpondent, if the Bill of Commerce was  
 like to paſs: But as according to the Conclu-  
 ſion of the *Exeter* Letter, the Preſerving of  
 the *Portugal* Treaty is preſerving the very Bread  
 of our People, no Man in his Senſes can ſuſpect  
 that

that a *British* Parliament can have it in their thoughts to break that Treaty, and to take the Bread out of their Mouths. The *Lisbon* Factor has judged very rightly of the Consequence of breaking that Treaty: He was only in the wrong to suspect that a *British* Parliament could, upon any account whatsoever, be induced to break a Treaty, especially one that is so beneficial to this Nation.

*The pre-  
serving the  
Portugal  
Treaty is  
preserving  
the very  
Bread of  
our People.*

Here I shall shew,

1. That he has given a good Argument for the Old SCHEME.
2. That the SCHEME is defended by the Mercator's Answer to many of his own Objections.
3. That there be greater Reasons now for charging the French Trade with obstructing our Increase of Treasure, and lessening the Value of our Manufactures, than when the Prohibition Act was made.
4. I shall exhibit a Letter concerning the Portugal Treaty.

MY Adversaries finding themselves much pressed by the Preamble to the Prohibition Act, 30 Car. II. say it was a *wild Preamble to a wild Act of Parliament*.

But why a *wild Preamble*, and a *wild Act of Parliament*? Why? because our Legislators then were *cheated* by the old SCHEME into a Persuasion, that the French Trade carried our Money away, &c. and from thence, say they, came that *wild Preamble to a wild Act of Parliament*.

Several Things deserve Remark in this Passage.

*The Scheme  
vindicated.*

First, That they say, it led our Legislators to the making the above-mentioned Act of Parliament in the 30th Year of King *Charles II.* between 30 and 40 Years since; so that the contriving or drawing that SCHEME, is not the Crime of the present Age.

But 2dly, The Adversaries of the Bill of Commerce ought not so much as to be charged with the Guilt of offering a SCHEME to the last Parliament, which they knew to be false; for if as they say, it was the Foundation, upon which our Legislators almost forty Years ago condemned the *French Trade*, what reason could any Man have in this Age to suspect that so wise an Assembly of Men in the last were mistaken? or that upon insufficient Grounds they would proceed to a Prohibition of that Trade? Had the SCHEME ever been confuted? Had ever any thing been published in Print against it? And then was there not sufficient Reason for every Man to rely upon that Authority which had convinc'd our former Legislators? If this SCHEME was indeed the Foundation of that Act of Parliament, the *Mercator* has acquitted every Person now living from the Guilt of forging an Argument against the Bill of Commerce, or abetting any such Forgery.

But in the third place, if this SCHEME was a Forgery, how comes it to pass that it was not discovered in that Parliament? that the Glory of this Discovery was reserv'd so many Years after for the *Mercator*? Could so

wise

wife a Parliament be so easily imposed on by the Fraud, when it was so very fresh? And was it so easy for this Man to lay it open after so great a distance of time? No, certainly, if the OLD SCHEME was the Foundation of that Law, I shall believe that it was a Good SCHEME; I shall believe that our Legislators could not be so much mistaken as to make an entire Prohibition of the *French Trade*, when we were in Amity with that Prince upon a Foundation that was false. And thus the *Mercator* has furnish'd me with an Argument in Defence of the OLD SCHEME, the Authority of an *English* Parliament, who, I believe, knew a great deal more of this Matter than he or I at this Distance.

Lastly, If the OLD SCHEME was false, the Ministry in that Reign would not have fail'd to lay it open; for how zealous soever the Lords and Commons were then against the *French Trade*, 'tis well known that the Ministry was for it; (*France* has often heretofore found her Way to an *English* Ministry, and found her Account in such a Correspondence) and they would certainly have detected all the Frauds of that SCHEME, if there had been any, especially if there had been no other Argument against that Trade. Since they did not think fit to do it, I must take it for granted, that whether from that SCHEME, or by whatsoever other Arguments, our Legislators were in the right, when they affirm'd of our *French Imports*, that they *exhausted* our *Treasures*, and *lessen'd* the *Value* of our *native Commodities* and *Manufactures*.

The *Mercator* affirms, that *I gave up this Old SCHEME*, that *I own'd I would not pretend to vindicate it*; I challenge him to produce one Word to this Purpose in all that I have ever written. Indeed, I said the *Mercator* should not divert me from the Argument I had then chosen, which was the Confutation of his Fallhoods to the Defence of that SCHEME, to which I was not at all oblig'd. But I even then believ'd that it was true, notwithstanding all that he had produc'd to prove it false. And I do not believe it the less at this time, if, as he says, it was the Foundation of an Act of Parliament. I thank him for this Argument.

But my Gratitude goes farther, I thank him for the Answer I shall make to his chief Arguments against it, which are contradictory Accounts from the *Custom-House*. Formerly he affirms, that in the Year 1680, which was two Years after this Act of Parliament was made, *the Court gave private Orders to the Commissioners of the Customs* to make wrong Entries, that this was done accordingly in the Case of Wines; and he gives us to understand, that there sat at the Board at that time Sir *Nicholas Butler*, of *flagrant Memory*. But if we are to take *Custom-house Vouchers* before the above-mention'd Act of Parliament, we must take such as Sir *Nicholas Butler* of *flagrant Memory*, has left there. The *Mercator* can never be angry with me for this Answer, for it is his own, and indeed it is an effectual Cure for most of the mortal Stabs, he has given the Old SCHEME.

I be-



I believe I have effectually clear'd King Charles II, and our Legislators in that Reign, from the Charge of their making *wild Preambles, and wild Acts of Parliament*; and we ought therefore to believe that upon very good Ground, whether by the Old SCHEME, or by whatsoever other Arguments they justly condemned the *French Trade of exhausting the Treasure, and lessening the Value of the Native Commodities and Manufactures of this Nation.*

Thus they judg'd of that Trade so many Years ago. They could not but know that an Over-balance of Manufactures imported from that Country, must be paid for by the Gold and Silver of this Kingdom; they could not but see, that all that Over-balance of Manufactures thus imported, must be worn and consum'd here, instead of so many of our own; and it follow'd thence, in the first Case, that our Treasure was exhausted, and in the second, that the Value of our Native Manufactures must be lessen'd.

But those wise and excellent Legislators never liv'd to have the Experience we have had since; and it was not possible for them to foresee how much our Trade with *France* interrupted that with other Countries. This could only be known by the Increase we have made since of our other Commerce, by the Interruption of our Trade with *France*. We are taught by the Report of the Inspector-General of the *Customs*, that *Holland* formerly paid us nothing, but now almost 1,400,000 l. per Ann. for an Over-balance of our Manufactures. We have gain'd too, since that Interruption

*Reasons for the Prohibition Act, 30 Car. II.*

*Before the Act Holland paid us no Balance, but now 1,400,000 l. per Annum.*

*The British Merchant.*

ruption, from *Germany, Flanders, Italy, and Portugal*, by an Over-balance of Manufactures, more than ever we did before. Instead of a losing Trade with *France*, we have a gainful one with so many other Nations. All this Gain is owing to the Interruption of a losing Commerce; and the Restoration of that losing Commerce, must be the Interruption of our other Gain, from *Portugal* especially; since the Advantages of this Trade, were not only gain'd by the Commencement of that Interruption, but depend upon a Treaty for its Continuance.

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

Nov. 25. 1713.

“ **T**H O’ you have already expos’d the  
 “ *Mercator* about the Treaty with *Portugal*, for Admission of our Cloths, &c.  
 “ yet he is so impudent, that he calls that  
 “ Treaty, in his Paper, *Numb. 59.* a Felo-  
 “ nious Treaty.

*The Portu-  
gal Treaty  
defended.*

“ Thus the taking hold of an Opportuni-  
 “ ty, when *Portugal* was newly engag’d in a  
 “ War with *Spain*, when the *Spaniards*, joint-  
 “ ly with *France*, made an Irruption into that  
 “ Country, and if not destroy’d, put a Stop  
 “ to the *Portuguese* Manufacture of Cloth (it  
 “ being made into the Places where the chief  
 “ of those Manufactures were) I say, that  
 “ the improving that Opportunity to open so  
 “ valuable a Branch of our Trade, as the  
 “ Admission of our Cloth, and to tie down  
 “ the

“ the *Portuguese* never to prohibit any of our  
 “ Manufactures for the future, is treated.

“ And what is the Reason? Why, because  
 “ it interferes at present, with the New  
 “ Treaty with *France*, every thing is felonious,  
 “ that does not tend to deliver up our  
 “ Ballance of Trade to that Nation.

“ Was there never any Treaty of Commerce,  
 “ in which, for the Advantages of their Trades,  
 “ we favour’d one Nation more than another? This is  
 “ so certain, it will never be deny’d. Why therefore, must this  
 “ Treaty be the Object of Party in favour of  
 “ *France*.

“ Did it not immediately produce the Effects  
 “ foreseen by that able Minister her Majesty employ’d;  
 “ who by a perfect Knowledge of the *Portuguese* Trade,  
 “ knew the Consequences? He was not a Minister just  
 “ sent to make that Treaty, but had been Envoy  
 “ Extraordinary, in the Year 1691, and continu’d  
 “ employ’d in that Country until the Year 1697,  
 “ and in the Year 1700 was sent again, and continu’d  
 “ until 1703, that this Treaty was made.

“ And the Success answer’d: For from that Treaty’s  
 “ first taking place, the Ballance of Trade began to  
 “ take place; and the Year 1703, was the first Year  
 “ we began to bring off the Silver of that Nation.

“ It’s manifest from the time of their Prohibition  
 “ of our Cloth, Cloth Serges, and Cloth Druggets,  
 “ &c. (which continu’d 20 Years) we never had an  
 “ Over-balance, so as to bring from thence either Gold  
 “ or Silver.

*During the Prohibition in Portugal, we had no Balance from thence.*

“ No

“ No doubt, it well deserves the Name of  
 “ a felonious Treaty, and the Friends of  
 “ *France* have very good Reasons to call it  
 “ so; for it open’d such a Trade as brought  
 “ us in fresh Supplies of Gold and Silver too,  
 “ as to enable us to carry on the War, which  
 “ we could never have supported, had we  
 “ been forc’d to pay the Over-balance of  
 “ our War abroad, out of our Stock, with-  
 “ out any Supplies.

“ Should any one call the *French* Treaty of  
 “ Peace or Commerce a felonious one, what  
 “ would be the present Answer, but a Prose-  
 “ cution for abusing her sacred Majesty? And  
 “ would not such a Person deserve Chastise-  
 “ ment? And yet the *Mercator* can call the  
 “ *Portuguese* Treaty so, tho’ made and ratifi-  
 “ ed by her Majesty.

“ Have these Men no regard to her Maje-  
 “ sty’s Honour, when they traduc’d her Acti-  
 “ ons, because done in a former Ministry?

“ They must alledge, either her Majesty  
 “ knew, or she did not know what she did.  
 “ Let them make it out either way; for it’s  
 “ equal, and must be a most scandalous Re-  
 “ flection on her sacred Majesty, for which I  
 “ hope he will receive a just Reward.

*Yours, &c.*

I shall here exhibit,

1. *A Letter shewing that our Goods exported to Dunkirk, can be no Argument for any Exportations to other Parts of France,*
2. *Shall prove that we do not export to France, by the way of Flanders, &c.*

3. *That*

3. That the Mercator has no Reason to find Fault with the Exports and Imports of 1685.
4. That the French Abatement of Duty, is not proportionable to ours, by the Treaty Commerce. And,
5. Add some Reflections upon the abovementioned Passages in the Letter.

THE Improbability of our sending great Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures, and other Goods to *France*, by the way of other Countries, sufficiently appears in the following Letter.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,

“ I AM a Well-Wisher to the *French* Trade, but I would not have us to be run down too low neither; therefore I apply to you, that you may set the *Mercator* right in three or four Points.

“ First, he gives us an Account of several Goods sent to *Dunkirk*, and makes this Observation upon it; if we send so many Goods to one Port of *France*, under the Pressure of the high Duties we pay at present there, what Quantities are we not like to send, when those Duties are reduc'd upon the foot of the Tariff of 1664?

“ To which I answer,

“ First, That *Dunkirk* is not in *France*, 'tis a *Flemish* Town, where the People generally speak *Dutch*, and is by no means accounted as a *French* Town by us, since we do not suffer

*Dunkirk*  
no French  
Town.



“ suffer them to import into *Great Britain* any  
 “ Goods of *French* Growth as taking it to be  
 “ against the Act of Navigation.

*But a free  
 Port.*

“ Secondly, *Dunkirk* is a free Port, where  
 “ no Customs at all are paid ; so that it will  
 “ ever be cheaper for us to send Goods there  
 “ (if there was a Consumption for them) than  
 “ to *France*, even upon the Foot of the Ta-  
 “ riff of 1664.

“ Thirdly, As we have a Garrison there,  
 “ and in other adjacent Places, I take it that  
 “ most of the Goods sent to *Dunkirk* are used  
 “ and consumed by our own People ; and if  
 “ we have sent 100,000 *l.* worth of Goods  
 “ to that Port, since it is in our Hands, we  
 “ have sent six times that Sum in Money, and  
 “ Bills of Exchange, for the Subsistence of our  
 “ Forces there, and in other Places of *Flan-*  
 “ *ders* ; so that the Goods we send thither, do  
 “ by no means answer the Expence we are at  
 “ in that Country.

“ A second Point is, That the *Mercator*  
 “ tells us, that several of the Goods sent from  
 “ hence to *Flanders*, go from thence after-  
 “ wards to *France*, and seems to look upon  
 “ that as a Loss to the Nation ; I am a Mer-  
 “ chant of 30 Years standing, but I do assure  
 “ you, I cannot conceive what he means by  
 “ that Suggestion.

“ For,

*The Impro-  
 bability of  
 sending  
 Goods thro’  
 Flanders in-  
 to France.*

“ First, It doth not stand to Reason to  
 “ think that any Man in his right Senses, who  
 “ can send Goods directly to *Calais*, *St. Vale-*  
 “ *ry*, *Roan*, or other *French* Sea Towns, should  
 “ wilfully increase his Charges 8, 10, or 12 *per*  
 “ *Cent.*

“ *Cent.* by sending those Goods by the way of  
 “ *Flanders*; he must be mad if he doth so, or  
 “ the most ignorant Trader in the World, if  
 “ he doth not fall into the Account of it.

“ Secondly, Supposing there were no  
 “ Charges in sending those Goods a round-  
 “ about Way, he would, however, render  
 “ his Trade thereby more precarious and diffi-  
 “ cult, by reason the *French* do not admit in-  
 “ to *France* all sorts of *British* Goods from o-  
 “ ther Countries which they do admit direct-  
 “ ly from *Great Britain*.

France ad-  
mits some  
Goods di-  
rectly from  
Great Bri-  
tain which  
she does not  
admit thro'  
other Coun-  
tries.

“ Thirdly, Supposing again it were so as he  
 “ pretends that *English* Goods were sent to  
 “ *France* by way of *Flanders*, I cannot for my  
 “ Life see the Prejudice it is to us. For I do  
 “ by no means grant that *British* Goods, which  
 “ are exported to *France* directly, are for *Bri-*  
 “ *tish* Mens Accounts more than *British* Goods  
 “ exported to *Flanders*, or elsewhere; much  
 “ less do I grant that there is 5 or 10 *per Cent.*  
 “ Profit upon a Trade so near home, as that  
 “ to *France* or *Flanders*; 'tis very well most  
 “ times if the Merchants get the Insurance and  
 “ Interest of their Money. So that after all,  
 “ I should take it rather to be for our Advan-  
 “ tage, if the *French* have such Occasions for  
 “ our Commodities, that they can afford to  
 “ give the extraordinary Charges, Customs,  
 “ Commission and Profits (if any) which ne-  
 “ cessarily accrue upon them, when they are  
 “ convey'd to them by way of other Coun-  
 “ tries; and this was undoubtedly the Case in  
 “ time of War, the *French* being so shrewd in  
 “ Matters of Trade, that either in Peace or  
 “ War,

France  
admits no  
Goods but  
what she  
wants.

“ War, they will have whatever is useful for  
“ them and for their Manufactures, tho’ no-  
“ thing else.

“ A third Point is, The *Mercator* found  
“ fault that the Year 1685. was taken for a  
“ Standard for our Imports from *France*, be-  
“ cause it was the Year after the Prohibition  
“ ceased. This seems to me strangely ab-  
“ surd in him, who hath own’d, that tho’  
“ there was a Prohibition, the then Admini-  
“ stration (which he takes Liberty to abuse at  
“ a strange rate, altho’ in so auspicious a  
“ Reign) wink’d at it; and there were as  
“ many *French* Wines, and other *French*  
“ Goods, imported under other Names, as  
“ if there had been no Prohibition at all; and  
“ he owns also, that in the subsequent Years  
“ there were more Wines imported than in  
“ 1685, and now after a long War and Inter-  
“ ruption of Trade, and after he had supposed  
“ *France* exhausted of *British* Goods, he not  
“ only will take this present Year for a Stan-  
“ dard of our Exports to *France*, but insinuates  
“ that for the future our said Exports are like  
“ to be much greater. When, as I said before,  
“ every body knows that either in War or  
“ Peace, in time of Prohibition, or in time  
“ of free Trade, the *French* will never take  
“ but what is useful and necessary for them,  
“ and are so wise as always to admit one way  
“ or other whatever they have occasion for.

England  
wants no  
French  
Goods what-  
soever.

“ Fourthly, Altho’ the *Mercator* doth in  
“ none of his Papers, that I know of, pretend  
“ that this Nation hath occasion for any sort or  
“ kind of *French* Commodities whatsoever

“ (for

“ (for it were too gross to pretend it) howe-  
 “ ver he would have us to abate of the *French*  
 “ Duties which have been so wisely laid by  
 “ our Legislators, viz.

“ 300 per Cent. on

“ *French Wines,*

“ 150 per Cent. on

“ *Brandies.*

} According to his own  
 Valuation of those  
 Commodities.

*How much  
 per Cent.  
 the Duties  
 on French  
 Goods are.*

“ 45 per Cent. on Paper.

“ 45 per Cent. on Linen.

“ And so in proportion to these two last  
 “ Articles upon most other *French* Commodi-  
 “ ties.

“ And for a Compensation to poor Eng-  
 “ land, the *French* will abate of the present  
 “ Duties which *English* Goods pay in *France*,  
 “ viz. 15 per Cent. on Lead, Tin, Allum,  
 “ Copperas, and most other Commodities.

*The Abate-  
 ment propo-  
 sed on Eng-  
 lish Goods  
 in France.*

“ Upon Tobacco, which is one of our  
 “ great Articles, Nothing.

“ And as for Woollen Goods, whether  
 “ they abate much or no, 'tis of no Conse-  
 “ quence, since every body agrees that the  
 “ *French* make now most sorts cheaper than  
 “ we our selves.

“ So that it appears we should abate to the  
 “ *French* infinitely more of the Duties on their  
 “ Commodities, than they should abate to us  
 “ on ours; which makes me conclude we  
 “ had better let things remain upon the pre-  
 “ sent certain good Foot they are, and enjoy  
 “ the free open Trade and Commerce the  
 “ Peace hath procured us with that Nation,  
 “ than to give away without any Cause or  
 “ Necessity whatever to a much greater Im-  
 “ portation

*The Abate-  
 ment no In-  
 couragement  
 for Expor-  
 tation.*

“ portation of *French* Goods into *England*,  
 “ when it is apparent the intended Reduction  
 “ of the Duties on *English* Goods, even upon  
 “ the Foot of 1664 is so inconsiderable, that it  
 “ would give us an Opportunity of exporting  
 “ very little more Goods to *France* than now  
 “ we do.

Dunkirk  
 and Mar-  
 seilles free  
 Ports.

Trade to  
 those Ports  
 is no Trade  
 to France.

MY Correspondent observes here, that *Dunkirk* is a Free-Port : And I must add too, that *Marseilles* is also another, where no Customs are paid at all. How then, can our Exportations to those Ports prove, that any of our Goods can be let into any other Parts of *France*, under the Duties which are left upon them by the late Treaty of Commerce ? Or, how will they prove that we are to have the Tariff of 1664, when that Treaty has restor'd us that Tariff, with so many Exceptions ? How will they prove to us that our Woollen Manufactures can be sold in *France*, under the Tariff of 1699, that is, under Duties of above 20 *per Cent.* of their whole Value ? How will they prove that any of our Goods of foreign Growth, or made of the Materials of foreign Growth, can be sold in that Country, notwithstanding the Prohibitions of them which are to remain in their full Force by our late Treaty ? *France* may dispense with her present Prohibitions, Edicts, and high Duties, to draw on the Bill of Commerce ; but have we any Assurance, that this shall be done when that Point is once gain'd ? We are to expect no Favour from that Country, but what she is bound to grant us by her Treaty.

But



But in the next place, what are his supposed Exportations by the way of *Flanders*? Wou'd any Man bear the Charges of a round-about Trade, when in Peace he can carry his Goods directly to that Country? Wou'd he chuse to make his Trade so very difficult and precarious? But if the *French* must have our Goods, if they are under any such Necessity, that they must import them either directly by the Way of *Flanders*, or other Countries, what Reason then for the Bill of Commerce? shall we grant them the Liberty of pouring in upon us their Wines, their Linens, their Silks, their Paper, and other Manufactures, so prejudicial to our own, only for the Liberty of carrying directly to *France* such Goods as she is otherwise forc'd to take from us, by the way of *Flanders*, and other Countries?

*France must have what she wants, and therefore no need of a Bill of Commerce.*

In the next place, I cannot but wonder, that the *Mercator* should be so very angry with the Year 1685. He that said so bold at his first setting out, that *the French Trade has, in spite of Duties, Edicts, and Prohibitions, been always beneficial to this Nation!* He that pretended to make a Ballance, that very Year, of 8 or 900,000 *l.* in our Favour! Let him shew, that we had then, or ever before, either before, or since the Tariff of 1664, any Ballance at all, and I promise here never to offer one Word against the Bill of Commerce.

*No Ballance ever gain'd from France.*

Great Search has been making for this happy Year, but no such Year can be found, neither under the Duties of 1664, nor even before that Year, when the Duties were a great deal lighter. And therefore, the *Mercator*, who was  
so

so very fond of *Custom-House* Accounts, is come to down-right denying that “ any Account counts from the *Custom-House*, can give a true Scheme of the Trade of *France*, or so much of a Scheme, as to make a rational Conjecture from.” Is this the Man that was so very sure of his Accounts from the *Custom-House*?

*Woollen  
Manufactures  
cheaper  
in France  
than England*

But I desire my Reader to look back to my Correspondent's Letter. What Abatements are we to make of our *English* Duties to let in an Inundation of *French* Manufactures into this Kingdom? And how inconsiderable are the Abatements of the *French* Duties upon our Goods? But if the whole Duties upon our Woollen Manufactures were to be abated there, it would do us very little Service. I have prov'd, that there is Wool in *France*, and they have cheaper Woollen Manufactures of their own.

Their Manufactures must be cheaper by their raising the Value of their Coin, and reducing the Value of Labour. They have been making some little Counter-steps to this, to draw on the Bill of Commerce: But when that Point is gain'd, they may unmake them all again. The Treaty has not settled the Value of their Coin; but 'tis no doubt will deserve the Consideration of our Legislators.

*The Mercator contradicts his own Assertions.  
His Letter concerning the Ship Marfeilles Fac-  
tor consider'd.*

*Entries for the Straits cannot be presumed to be  
for France.*

*Custom-House Accounts the most certain Rule  
to judge of our Exports and Imports between  
France and England, notwithstanding the  
Letter concerning the Marfeilles Factor.*

**W**HAT a strange Creature is the Mer-  
cator? One while all for *Custom-House*  
Accounts, and for proving the *French Trade*  
beneficial by those infallible Vouchers: This  
has been promised in many of his Papers. At  
another time, *it is impossible to make any Con-  
jecture of the French Trade by any Accounts from  
the Custom-House.* They are found now to  
be against him, therefore this is the Doctrine  
of him and his Masters.

*Mercator's  
Self Contra-  
dictions.*

Again, for a long time he lamented the ill  
Success of the Bill of Commerce, for want of  
which few or no Manufactures could be sent to  
that Country; but by his latest Papers, a World  
of our Manufactures are sent thither, which are  
enter'd out for other Places.

One while our Goods cannot get into *France*,  
*under the Pressure of the present high Duties* in  
that Kingdom: This Doctrine has been press'd  
more than once; but of late one would ima-  
gine *this Pressure of the present high Duties* did  
us but very little Mischief. Our Goods, it  
seems, are first sent to other Countries, such  
as *Holland, Flanders, and Italy*, where the  
Cu-

Customs are very Moderate, and afterwards sent to France *under the Pressure of the present high Duties*; that is, they will by no means bear paying the *French Duties* only, but they are very well able to bear the Duties of *France* and other Countries join'd together. Such Absurdities as these are thought fit to be imposed on *English Readers*!

Marseilles  
Factor con-  
sidered.

But why are we to grant, that greater Quantities of our Goods are exported to *France* than are enter'd for that Country? Why? “Be-  
“ cause on the 31<sup>st</sup> of *October* last was entered  
“ at the *Custom-House* by Mr. *Paul Torin*  
“ 31091 *lib.* of Pepper for *Marseilles*, which  
“ was shipp'd on board the *Marseilles Factor*,  
“ a Ship that was afterwards clear'd out, not  
“ for *Marseilles*, but for the *Straits*.

Did this Ship, says he in other Words, carry no other Cargo to *Marseilles*? Was it worth her while to go to that Port with so small a Cargo? But if she was full loaden for *Marseilles*, why was she clear'd for the *Straits*, which takes in so many other Countries, and not for that Port only? Since therefore Goods which are enter'd for the *Straits* are so very likely to be carried into *France*, he concludes that *no Guess can be made from the Custom-House Books of what the Trade to France is.*

And I must deny, that *any Guess can be made, what our Trade to France ever was or ever shall be hereafter*, by any *Tariff* or *Treaty of Commerce*, from any Exports to *Marseilles*. *Marseilles* I have said already is a free Port, where no Customs at all are paid, either inwards or outwards, where all sorts of Goods are laid up,  
till

Marseilles a  
Magazine  
of Goods.

till any other Market shall call for them, whether in *France*, or any other Country; and whensoever that shall happen, they are carry'd out as free as they came in. The *Mercator* will by no means allow, that our Exports for *Holland* are for the Consumption of that Country, and yet they pay a Duty both inwards and outwards; so that they cannot pass thro' *Holland* without an Increase of their Price upon this Account. The Case is otherwise at *Dunkirk* and *Marseilles*, no Customs are paid at all upon Goods imported or exported in those Places; and then shall it be thought that whatsoever we send to either are for the Use of the *French Nation*? No, certainly it is much more reasonable to believe that they are only laid up there, till they shall be called for by some other Country; for as soon as they leave those Ports for any other Ports of *France*, they are loaded with such Duties as are next to Prohibitions. I must therefore inform this Writer, that his Exports to *Marseilles* are very little to his Purpose, very little more than if they were sent to *Constantinople* or *Aleppo*. It is much more probable, that the Goods landed at *Marseilles* are shipp'd again for some other Country, than that either these, or any other Goods enter'd for the *Straits*, are for the Use of the *French Nation*. And therefore notwithstanding this fine Argument of the *Mercator*, the *Customhouse* Accounts are a very good Rule to determine the utmost Extent of our Exports to *France* in every Year of Peace; his *Marseilles Factor*, tho' she had been loaded wholly for that City, and for no other Country within the

*No Customs  
paid at  
Dunkirk  
and Mar-  
seilles.*



the *Straits*, does not prove so much as a Probability, that any thing more than the Pepper, or even that all the Pepper on board that Ship, was for the Use of the *French Nation*.

I shall therefore grant, that Goods may be sometimes entered for the *Straits*, and afterwards landed at *Marseilles*, without granting that any Goods, whether entered for *Marseilles* or the *Straits*, are for the Use of *France*. I think *France* will use none of our Goods, except such as she cannot be without, whether the Cargo of the *Marseilles Factor* was of this kind, we shall be able to judge when we see it; for my own part, I know nothing of it, let the *Mercator* produce it, if he thinks it for his Purpose. But I believe he will not produce it, or if he should, I believe we should be convinc'd by the very Sight, that none, or but a very small part of it, was to be consum'd in *France*, or even to be laid up at *Marseilles*, till called for by any foreign Market; but I must ask the *Mercator* here, if Goods enter'd for one Country are often landed in another, what Reason he has not to believe that the Pepper enter'd for *Marseilles*, might not be landed in any Port of *Italy*, as well as that Goods enter'd for the *Straits*, should be landed at *Marseilles*? I am sure there is very little Reason to believe, that any great Quantities of our Goods can be consum'd in any Part of *France*, under the Pressure of the present Duties, as he calls it, or even without any Duties at all, as is very well observ'd by my Correspondent. I must therefore desire the *Mercator* to consider,

First,

First, that *Marseilles* is a free Port, That our Goods there, and at *Dunkirk*, pay no Customs; that the Consumption of them in those Places, cannot be increas'd by passing the Bill of Commerce; and that therefore, the Exportations to either the one or the other, can be no Argument for that Bill.

*Exportations to Marseilles and Dunkirk not increased by the Bill.*

Secondly, that our Goods in all other Parts of *France*, are either prohibited, or loaded with high Duties; and that therefore, our Exportations to *Dunkirk* or *Marseilles* are no Argument at all, that any of them can be sold in any other Part of that Kingdom.

*Or carried into France.*

In the third Place, the Treaty of Commerce leaves many of our Goods under high Duties; and some of them under Prohibitions, in all other Parts of *France*. And therefore our Exportations to *Dunkirk* or *Marseilles*, are no Argument that that Treaty will enable us to sell any in any other Part of that Kingdom.

Fourthly, If more of our Goods are exported to *Dunkirk* or *Marseilles*, than are necessary for the Consumption of those Cities; it ought rather to be presum'd, that they are afterwards re-exported to other Countries, where they are admitted upon easier Terms, than that they are sold thence to any other Parts of *France*, under the Pressure of the present Duties.

And from hence it will follow in the fifth Place, That if Goods are enter'd from *England*, without specifying any particular foreign Port, to which they are bound, it ought rather to be presum'd, that they are bound for those Countries where they are admitted upon easy Terms, than that they are bound for any

Goods entred  
to the Straits  
landed in  
Italy, not in  
France.

Country, where they are either prohibited, or loaded with high Duties. For Example: The *Straits* is a general Name that comprehends *Italy* as well as *France*; but our Goods are not prohibited in *Italy*, they are admitted there with easy Duties. The thing is just the contrary in *France*: The *Mercator* himself has denied, and indeed, it is ridiculous to imagine, that any considerable Quantity of our Goods can be exported to that Kingdom, under the present Pressure of high Duties; and therefore, every Entry for the *Straits* ought rather to be presum'd to be made for *Italy*.

And hence it will follow, in the last Place, That the Entry of 31,091 *lib.* of Pepper for *Marseilles*, and the clearing out the Ship in which it was carried, ought to be considered in this Manner, viz. That the Pepper only was for *France*, if she was in absolute Want of that Commodity (for in such Cases, she admits every thing) and that all the rest of her Cargo was for *Italy*. Or if the whole was for *Marseilles*, for the Reasons I have given, it ought not to be presum'd, that the whole is to be consum'd within the *French Nation*, or that it is not afterwards to be re-exported to other Countries, where it is admitted with easy Duties.

The *Mercator* has a very quaint Argument to persuade us, that the whole Cargo on board the *Marseilles Factor* is intended for that Port; and that is, that if the Ship is bound for *Italy*, *Marseilles* is out of the Way, and that the Carrier's Waggon is never known

to leave the Road, to deliver a Parcel by the Way. But is it the same thing with a Ship? Or is *Marseilles* so very much out of the Road to *Italy*? Or is 30,000 *lib.* of Pepper, like a little Parcel in a Waggon? According to the last Sale, it is of 2,500 *l.* Value; and how many Ships are loaden with no greater Value? But if the whole Cargo was for *Marseilles*, *Marseilles* is a free Port, and nothing at all to the *Mercator's* Purpose.

But I think I have said enough to convince every reasonable Person, that his *Marseilles Factor*, the Entry on board her for that Port, and the clearing her out for the *Straits*, are no Argument at all, that we cannot make a Guess at the *French Trade*, by any Returns from the *Custom-House*.

What a strange Creature now is the *Mercator*, to deal in such Self-Contradictions! To be first so very confident of his *Custom-house* Accompts, and then so soon to give them up! To persuade us that our Goods cannot be carried into *France*, and that yet now such Quantities are carried thither! To persuade us that our Goods are not able to bear the present high Duties in that Kingdom, and that yet, now they are able to bear, not only the *French Duties*, but those of other Countries in Conjunction! But I believe I shall shew my Readers before I have done, that Duties, or no Duties in *France*, the Case will be very much the same, we shall send very few Manufactures to that Kingdom.

*The Marseilles Factor nothing to the Mercator's Purpose*

*We shall send few Manufactures to France, Duty or no Duty.*

*A Letter in Answer to one of the Mercator's  
Arguments against the SCHEME.*

*Some Reflections on that Letter.*

**T**H<sup>O'</sup> at first I had nothing less in my Thoughts, than to undertake a Defence of the Old SCHEME, yet I will do it because the *Mercator* opposes it. I have already made my Acknowledgements to him for some Answers to his own Objections; and for providing Cures for some of the mortal Stabs he has given to that SCHEME. But I am also oblig'd to this Writer, for putting other Gentlemen upon the Study of this Argument, by which I find I shall be eas'd of a great deal of Trouble. The *Mercator's* Objection against the SCHEME from the *Custom-house* Account, laid before the last Parliament by the present Commissioners of the Customs, is so well answer'd by a Letter I have just now receiv'd, that I shall give it my Readers entire, as it came to my Hands.

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

**I** Must frankly acknowledge, That I pay a very great Respect to the Memories of those worthy Merchants, who publish'd the Scheme of the Trade between *England* and *France* in 1674, as it was then carried on, in the Commodities of the Native Product and Manufacture of each Country, for

“ one



“ one Year, from *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669.

“ Their known Integrity and Abilities for that Work, easily prevail'd with me to give entire Credit to all they had asserted.

“ But after I had read the *Mercator*, No. 11, and had examined the Accounts from the Officers of the *Custom-house* relating to our Exports and Imports to and from *France* for the said Year, from *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669, which were laid last Sessions before the House of Commons, I was strangely surprized; and tho' I found by the *Memorandum* at the Foot of the Account of the Imports, that it was imperfect, yet the Difference between these *Custom-house* Accounts and the Scheme, was so great, that I must confess, I was afraid those Gentlemen had been imposed on, for I could not question their Sincerity.

“ Thus I was held in suspense, until I had perused your Paper No. 34, which revived a Suspicion I had long harbour'd of the Authority of the *Mercator's* said *authentic Voucher*; and turning to the Inspector-General's first Report to the Commissioners of Accounts, I was soon convinc'd, that this Argument against the Scheme, might be exposed, tho' under the Protection of so great a Demonstration.

“ For by that Report, it appears that all the Light the Inspector-General had been able to gain into the Transactions of past Times, relating to our Exports and Imports to and from *France*, was from a Manuscript

“ remaining in the *Custom-house*, which only  
 “ gives an Account of the several Goods and  
 “ Merchandizes of the *Growth* of *England* ex-  
 “ ported from *London*, and an Account of the  
 “ several Goods and Merchandizes that were  
 “ imported into the said City from *Michael-*  
 “ *mas* 1662, to *Michaelmas* 1663, and from  
 “ *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669,  
 “ with the then Valuation of all the Commo-  
 “ dities; but it takes no Notice of the Re-  
 “ exports, viz. of foreign Goods and Planta-  
 “ tion Goods carried to other Countries.

“ This Abstract appear'd to him to be an  
 “ authentick Copy of what had been offered  
 “ to the House of Commons, but in what  
 “ Year he could not find; and that the Quan-  
 “ tities of Goods contained therein, may have  
 “ been fairly extracted from the old Entry-  
 “ Books of the *Custom-house*.

“ According to this Manuscript, or Ab-  
 “ stract,

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
“ From <i>Mich.</i> 1662	{ The Imp. a- mount to	}	647706	16 0
“ To <i>Mich.</i> 1663				
	Exports —		375065	6 0
			<hr/>	
“ The Imports exceed the				
“ Exports —			272641	10 0

“ From <i>Mich.</i> 1668	{ The Imp. a- mount to	}	541583	16 0
“ To <i>Mich.</i> 1669				
	Exports —		108699	4 0
			<hr/>	
“ The Imports exceed the Exp.			432884	12 0

“ And

“ And afterwards he observes, That

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
“ From <i>Mich.</i> 1668	{ The Lead which was exported a- mounted to	14608	00	00
“ To <i>Mich.</i> 1669	{ And the Wooll. Ma- nuf. amoun- ted to	68521	17	00

“ To this Account, there can be no Ob-  
“ jection ; it comes from the proper Officer,  
“ who declares that he was upon Oath, and  
“ look’d upon himself, by the Nature of his  
“ Office, bound to act impartially between  
“ the Crown and the Merchant.

“ He believes it was fairly extracted from  
“ the old Entry-Books, and it had the Sanc-  
“ tion to be offer’d to a House of Commons.

“ I cannot then doubt, but that this Manu-  
“ script was in the *Custom-house*, and known  
“ to be there, when the Officers of the *Cu-*  
“ *stom-house* gave in their Accounts in *June*  
“ 1713 to the House of Commons.

“ And since this was all the Light the In-  
“ spector-General had been able to gain, it  
“ must be concluded, that there was no other  
“ Account in the *Custom-house* in 1711, (when  
“ his said Report was made) that was regular-  
“ ly enter’d, or that could be found.

“ This therefore is a sufficient Reason, to  
“ question the Validity of this Account from  
“ the *Custom-house*, unless it should appear that  
“ this and the Manuscript, mentioned by Dr.  
“ *Davenant*, are the same Record.

“ Which cannot be allowed, for the Doctor, as aforesaid, says, That the Woollen Manufactures were therein valued at 68,521 *l.* 17 *s.*

“ And by the Scheme, they are valued at 61,546 *l.* This Difference may be occasioned by the Rates that are set upon those Goods in the Manuscript, and in the Scheme; but it will be impossible to reconcile the Quantities of the exported Goods in the *Custom-house* Account delivered to the House of Commons, with the aforesaid Valuation of 68,521 *l.* 17 *s.*

“ To prove this Assertion, I might refer to the *Mercator*, Numb. 11. but because he has omitted several Parcels of the Woollen Manufactures that are express'd in that Account, I shall give you the Particulars, and their Valuation, according to the Rates made use of in the Scheme, *viz.*

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
“ 349 Long Cloths at 10 <i>l.</i> per Clo.—	3490	0	0	
“ 54 Short Cloths	8	432	0	0
“ 2049½ <i>Spa.</i> Cloths	15	30742	10	0
“ 161 Pennistones	3 per Piece	483	0	0
“ 5937½ Kerseys	1 15 —	10338	2	6
“ 34 Cloth Rushes	5	170	0	0
“ 305½ Double Doz.	5	1527	10	0
“ 162 Single Dozens	2	324	0	0
“ 286 Double Bays	4	1144	0	0
“ 1660 Single Bays	2 10 —	4150	0	0
“ 168 Minikin Bays	6	1008	0	0
“ 7582 Perp. & Serg.	2 10 —	18955	0	0
“ 1701 Says & Stuffs	2 10 —	4252	10	0
“ 102465 Goads of Cot.	} 9 per 100 Go.	9271	7	0
“ 550 <i>Welsh</i> Plains				

	<i>l.</i>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
" 1215 Yds of Flannel 1 per Yard		60	15	0
" 2661 Dozen Mens } 2 per Dozen		53	22	0 0
" Worsted Hose }				
" 634 Childrens } 8	—	25	3	12 0
" Worsted Hose }				
" 1522 Mens Wool- } 15	—	11	41	10 0
" len Hose }				
" 1003 Childrens } 3	—	15	0	9 0
" Woollen Hose }				
" 1005 Ells of } —		18	0	0 0
" Woollen Cloth, }				
" valued at				

" Woollen Goods exported from  
 " *Michaelmas* 1668 to *Michael-*  
 " *mas* 1669, as by the *Custom-*  
 " *House* Account, amount to 93396 5 6

" Woollen Goods exported in the  
 " same Year, as by the *Inspec-*  
 " *tor-General's* Account, amount  
 " to 68521 17 0

" The Difference is 24874 8 6

" Which is sufficient to demonstrate, that  
 " the *Custom-house* Account, and the Doctor's  
 " Manuscript, are two distinct Accounts, and  
 " have no relation to one another.

" Besides, it must be observed, that the  
 " said *Custom-house* Account differs from the  
 " Scheme in the Quantities of every Species of  
 " Goods: The *Mercator* has shewn you where  
 " it exceeds, but it did not answer his End, to  
 " give the Counter-part, where 'tis exceeded.

" In that Account, there are also some  
 " Goods that the Scheme takes no notice of;



*The British Merchant.*

“ and on the other hand, there are other  
 “ Goods in the Scheme, which do not appear  
 “ in the *Custom-house* Account.

“ From the whole it's reasonable to be-  
 “ lieve, that the Doctor's Manuscript is au-  
 “ thentick; and that it's very probable, either  
 “ that, or the Books of Entries, from whence  
 “ it was taken, was the Foundation of the  
 “ Scheme, since neither the Scheme, nor the  
 “ Manuscript give any distinct Account of  
 “ Exports and Imports, to and from the Out-  
 “ Ports; nor of the re-exported Goods as  
 “ aforesaid: so that their different Valuation  
 “ of the Products and Manufactures shipped at  
 “ *London*, may be easily accounted for.

“ But when, or how the Officers of the  
 “ *Custom-house* came by the Accounts they  
 “ laid, as aforesaid, before the House of Com-  
 “ mons this Year; or why they took no no-  
 “ tice of the aforesaid Manuscript, is not for  
 “ me to reflect on.

“ My Design being only to take off that  
 “ Load of Infamy and Scandal, that has been  
 “ cast on the Authors of the Scheme, who  
 “ like true *Englishmen*, further'd the Prospe-  
 “ rity of their Country. I am,

S I R,

*Your Friend and Servant,*

London, Dec.

7. 1713.

K. K.

To

To the British Merchant.

S I R,

“ MY Correspondent here has kindled a  
 “ War between the *present* Officers of  
 “ the *Customs*, and the *Inspector-General*; and  
 “ for my own part, I am very well contented  
 “ that it should be fairly fought between them.  
 “ One thing I must observe, that Dr. *Dave-*  
 “ *nant* (the *Inspector-General*) in his Report  
 “ to the Commissioners of Accompts, ac-  
 “ knowledges himself to be upon his Oath;  
 “ and that he very well consider’d the Nature  
 “ and Obligation of an Oath: I think this  
 “ cannot be said of the Officers of the *Customs*;  
 “ in respect to this Return.

“ Again, the Doctor, *fol.* 8. has asserted,  
 “ that all possible Enquiries had been made at  
 “ the *Custom-house*, for an Abstract of the Im-  
 “ ports and Exports for one or two Years be-  
 “ fore the Commencement of the War, but  
 “ that he could not find that any such Abstract  
 “ was kept. And therefore, if the Manuscript,  
 “ mention’d by the Doctor, is genuine, then  
 “ the *Custom-house* Accounts for the Year  
 “ 1668-9, are undoubtedly spurious.

“ Besides, it appears plainly, that the *Merca-*  
 “ *tor*, when he first began to attack the Scheme,  
 “ knew so very little of the *Custom-house* Ac-  
 “ counts in his Paper, No. 11. that he ac-  
 “ knowledges, No. 2. that an Account of the  
 “ Value of the Exports and Imports in the Port  
 “ of *London*, between *France* and *England*, was  
 “ really return’d from the *Custom-house*, as *fol-*  
 “ *lows*.

Mercator  
 owns a Bal-  
 lance against  
 England.

“ Im-

	l.	s. d.
" Imported from <i>France</i> ,		
" from <i>Michaelmas</i> 1668		
" to <i>Michaelmas</i> 1669	541,543	16 0
" Exported ——— ———	108,699	4 0
	<hr/>	
" Ballance against <i>England</i>	432,844	12 0

" The Difference between this *Custom-house*  
 " Account, and that of the *Inspector-General*,  
 " is so inconsiderable, that it may very easily  
 " be accounted for by a Slip of the Pen. But  
 " whether this in the *Mercator*, No. 2, or that  
 " of the *Inspector-General*, is the right, for the  
 " Reasons in my Correspondent's Letter, the  
 " *Mercator's Custom-house* Account in his No.  
 " 11, must be wrong.

" Another thing must be observ'd, That  
 " the Customs were farm'd in 1669 ; and I  
 " have seen an Account of the Liquors, and  
 " *French* Linens imported into the Port of  
 " *London*, and the Out-Ports, from *Michael-*  
 " *mas* 1667 to *Michaelmas* 1669, sign'd by  
 " the Farmers, and the Officers of the *Cu-*  
 " *stoms*, and which was produced before the  
 " last House of Commons, where the Imports  
 " of those Goods render the Account of the  
 " same Goods in the Scheme highly probable.  
 " And whether, at a time that the Customs  
 " were in farm, the Farmers and Officers of  
 " the *Customs* were more likely to be in the  
 " right, or the present Officers of the *Customs*,  
 " at so great a Distance after, may be worth  
 " the Reader's while to consider.

" Lastly, it is notorious, that the Scheme  
 " was brought into the House of Commons  
 " before

“ before 1678, by that worthy Patriot, the famous Mr. *Sacheverell*; and whether so great a Man was likely to be imposed on by the Merchants, or whether the Merchants could have any hopes to impose upon him, and the whole Parliament of *England*, when the Matter of Fact was so fresh, will deserve the Reader’s Consideration.

*The Old Scheme brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Sacheverell.*

“ My Correspondent, therefore, might have some Suspicion that the Merchants, who had subscribed the Scheme, were imposed on, when he came to see the *Custom-house* Account in *Mercator*, No. 11, before he had so thoroughly considered the Matter, as he appears to have done in this Letter. But for my own part I shall never suspect, that any Man’s Integrity or Capacity ought to be call’d in question for any thing I shall find in the *Mercator*. I am, &c.

My Correspondent’s Letter has quite destroy’d the chief Argument against the Old SCHEME.

That SCHEME which made the Ballance against *England* upon her Trade with *France*, almost a Million Sterling *per Ann.* was consider’d as a most formidable Adversary of the Bill of Commerce; and was therefore to be encounter’d by all sorts of Weapons.

*Reasons why they attack’d the Scheme of 1674.*

Therefore in *Mercator*, No. 11. a *Custom-house* Account is rais’d against it, by which our Woollen Manufactures exported from *London* to *France*, between *Michaelmas* 1668 and *Michaelmas* 1669, which by the Old SCHEME are valu’d at no more than 61,

546 l.

546 *l.* are so multiply'd, that they must amount to 93,396 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.* And if this *Custom-house* Account is true, then without dispute, the Makers of the Old SCHEME was mistaken.

Against this *Custom-house* Account, the Letter from *K. K.* has set up the Report of the Inspector-General of the Customs, who upon Oath has deliver'd that Report to the Commissioners of the publick Accounts. According to that Report, our Woollen Goods exported that Year, are valu'd at 68,521 *l.* 17 *s.* These might be the same Sorts and Quantities of Goods which are in the Old SCHEME, tho' higher valu'd by the Inspector-General, who has no where been guilty of undervaluing the Goods we sent to *France*: But they can by no means be the Sorts and Quantities in the *Mercator's Custom-house* Account, which by the Valuations in the Old SCHEME, which he thinks too low for Goods exported to *France*, must amount to 93,396 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.*

Whom then shall we believe, the Inspector-General who was upon his Oath, or the *Mercator's Custom-house* Account, which was handed into Parliament without any such Solemnity? It will be very well done of the *Mercator*, to decide this Controversy between the Inspector-General, and his Account from the *Custom-house*.

If any Credit is to be given to the Report of the Inspector-General, then the *Custom-house* Account must be wrong: And if that Account is wrong, then this mortal Stab, as the *Mercator* calls it, is cured, then the  
Old



Old SCHEME is well again of this Wound.

All the Fear I have had, was, that this Argument of my Correspondent would bring back the *Mercator* to the *French Commerce*; and that for a while, we should remain without the fine Things he has promis'd us concerning the *Spanish Trade and Treaty*. But that Fear is over, he has given us great Hopes by his last, that his Correspondent shall keep open all the Wounds he has given the Old SCHEME, while he himself is more usefully employ'd in defending the *Spanish Treaty* from the Attacks of our News-writers.

His Correspondent therefore is my new Adversary, who in his very first Letter defends the *Mercator* for having said that the Preamble of King *Charles II's Prohibition Act*, was a *wild Preamble to a wild Act of Parliament*. He thinks it as lawful to say this, as, that many of the Members of that Parliament were Pensioners to the Court. For my own part, I think so too; but yet, I believe it was never said, that any of those Members were retain'd by Pensions against *France*. The Pensioners, if there were any such, were all in the *French Interest*, and were very far from being the most forward Persons for a Prohibition of the *French Commerce*. But they must either yield, or lose their Pensions; for the Country Part of our Legislators at that time would give no Money, but with the TACK of a Prohibition. Our Legislators then thought the *French Commerce* so great a Nuisance to this Nation, that they gave Money to be without it: And without doubt, 'tis now worth

*The Pensioners in 30 Car. II. voted the Fr. trade a great Nuisance.*

worth while for *France* to give a great deal to bring us into better Humour.

*Exclamations  
against  
the Scheme.*

But to return to the Old SCHEME, and his Charge, “ That I had once disown’d it, and am now repenting of that Sin; that I value myself upon the *Mercator’s* Confession, that the Scheme was 40 Years old, as if it was the less a Cheat for being a Cheat of so long standing; that I now know it to be counterfeit, and yet put it off for true Money; that I threw it by while it wanted Credit, but since it has been a successful Cheat, since it has cheated a Parliament, I am now ready to imbrace it: as if a Highwayman, who had robb’d for 40 Years, and had pass’d all that while for an honest Man, deserv’d ever the less to be hang’d. But he resolves to prove this Old SCHEME the errantest Cheat that ever was put upon a Nation, and that I shall be asham’d of it a second time, or be made a Shame myself to all the World.” And to give me a Sample of the bitter Things I am to expect in his future Letters, his Correspondent begins with the Title of the Scheme; which he charges with a Fraud: “ It is called, says he, A Scheme of the Trade, as it is at present carried on between *England* and *France*; whereas in the first place, all our Plantation Goods imported into *England*, and exported into *France* by Certificate, are omitted in it. This, says he, is first making the Title lye to the Nation, and then making the Scheme lye to the Title.”

*Confuted.*

But wherein is it that I have ever disown’d the SCHEME? Indeed I have said that it was

not

not a SCHEME of my making, and the *Mercator* himself has acquitted me of this Thing; he acknowledges that it was made above forty Years ago, that it cheated a Parliament forty Years since; then it could not be a Cheat of my contriving. But I am charged with knowing it to be counterfeit, and yet putting it off as true Money. But from whom have I known the Counterfeit? From the *Mercator*! I am so unfortunate as not to believe any thing because he says it; nay, since I have undertaken him, he has told so many Untruths, that I am ready to believe the contrary of whatever he says to be true. I shall never believe any thing to be less a Cheat for its long standing, if I can be once persuaded that 'tis a Cheat: but till I shall be convinc'd that the Old SCHEME was such a Cheat, I cannot easily believe that it could impose upon a whole Parliament, especially so wise a one as that of King *Charles II*, or that our Legislators then were seduc'd by it to make *wild Preambles to wild Acts of Parliament*; if yet it is true, that the Old SCHEME was the Foundation of that Act, for I have no Authority for it, but that of the *Mercator* and his Correspondent, which is always to be suspected. I believe the Old SCHEME will still live in spite of the *Mercator's* mortal Stabs; but whatsoever shall be its Fate, I make no doubt but our Legislators, as I have said before, had very good Reason for affirming, that our *French Imports exhausted our Treasure, and lessened the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures*. The *Mercator* has not yet prov'd that they were mistaken in their Assertion; he has  
written

*The Mercator challenged to produce any Year that brought a Ballance to England.*

written almost an hundred Papers to prove the *French Trade* beneficial, and promis'd it in his first, yet has never shewn a Ballance on the side of *England*. The *Custom-house* has been ransack'd for this happy Year, yet neither since the Tariff of 1664, nor even before, when the Duties on our Goods were lighter than by the late Treaty, can such a Year be found; let him but produce the Year, and I have done, I will then be ashamed of the Cause I have undertaken, nay, I will own my Shame to all the World.

As for this Writer's quaint Observation, That the Title of the SCHEME professes it to be a SCHEME of the Trade, as it was heretofore carried on between *England* and *France*, and yet all our Plantation-Goods that were re-exported are omitted, and therefore the Title is a LYE:

To this I answer, The SCHEME seems only to be a SCHEME of the native Commodities of both Kingdoms; and whether our Plantation Goods will be accounted such, we shall be able to judge if ever the *French* are brought to an Explanation of the Doubts of the last Parliament. But whoever reads that SCHEME, and the Conclusion of it, will readily believe, that as many of our Imports of the Growth and Manufacture of *France* are omitted, as of our Exports of foreign Growth and Manufacture. But I would have the *Mercator*, or his Correspondent, answer the Letter I have presented him, and recover his *Custom-house* Account, if 'tis possible.

The *Mercator* has been often insulting me with his Maxims :

That Cheapness of Commodities increases the Consumption of them. And,

*The Mercator's Maxims refuted.*

That Dearness of Commodities must needs hinder their Consumption.

From the first he argues, that since by the late Treaty of Commerce between us and *France*, the latter has obliged herself to lay no higher Duties upon our Goods than those of the Tariff of 1664, we shall export more to that Country than we were ever able to do under the higher Duties of any subsequent Tariff, because Cheapness of our Commodities in *France* must certainly cause an Increase of their Consumption.

But from the second he argues, that since by that Treaty we are obliged to favour the Goods of *France* only as those of the Nation the most favour'd ; by which means the Duties upon *French* Goods will be a great deal higher than they were in the Year 1664, or in any subsequent Year ; it must needs follow, that we shall not import such Quantities as we did under the lower Duties, because Dearness of Commodities cannot chuse but cause a Decrease of their Consumption. These are the *Mercator's* Arguments to prove that we shall import less of the *French* Goods than we ever did before, and at the same time that we shall export more of our own than ever to that Nation.

Now I have not taken up a Resolution to quarrel with every thing the *Mercator* says : I am for keeping on the Prohibitions and high Duties



Duties upon *French Goods*, because we shall then consume the less Quantities, and because Dearness of Commodities hinders their Consumption.

*Cheapness  
and Dearness  
of Commodi-  
ties consid-  
ered.*

The *Mercator's* Maxims therefore are very good, *Quoad hic & nunc*, as they say, that is, if they are restrained to Time and Place. For example, if the City of *London* had spent any certain Quantity of *French Wines*, Brandy, Silk, Linen, and Paper, at a certain Price, it is a violent Presumption that if the Price had been doubled in the same Year, the Consumption would have been less. And on the other hand, if the People of *France* at this time use any considerable Quantity of our Lead, Tin, and Woollen Manufactures at the present Prices, it cannot be doubted that a great Abatement of these Prices, by the Reduction of the Duties in *France*, must increase their Consumption, and be the Cause of a greater Exportation.

*According to  
the Differ-  
ence of time*

But then these Rules, if applied to different Times, are not so very infallible. For example, if thirty Years ago we spent a certain Quantity of *French Goods* at the current Prices of that Time, it cannot be concluded that we shall not spend as much now at higher Prices, and under an Increase of Duties. And the Reason of this may be, that our Luxury may be greater now than it was formerly, or that by an Increase of Wealth our People may be able to pay better Prices.

*High Duties  
on French  
Wines did  
not hinder  
their In-  
crease.*

But I would convince the *Mercator* even by Matter of Fact. It appears by an Account return'd from the *Custom-house* to the last Parliament, that the Wines imported from *France* into

into the Port of *London* for four Years, were as follow, that is to say, in the Year

	<i>Tuns.</i>	<i>Gal.</i>
1675 ———	7495	88
1676 ———	9645	11
1677 ———	9789	80
1678 ———	7212	2

The Medium of which was 8535 *Tuns per Ann.* The Customs then were 6*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.* On the 24th of *June* 1685, a Duty of 6*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.* was added, that is, the Customs were almost doubled; and immediately after, the Account for four Years, is as follows.

	<i>Tuns.</i>	<i>Gal.</i>
1686 ———	12760	237
1687 ———	15518	97
1688 ———	14218	171
1689 ———	11109	92

The Medium of which was annually 13,401 *Tuns.* So that here the Customs were almost doubled, and yet our Importations increased in so prodigious a manner.

But I must acknowledge now, that the Customs upon all Wines are above double what they were in the last mentioned Years; and so many other Countries as well as *England*, are of late accustomed to drink Clarets, that the prime Costs in *France* are very much increased: it is not to be imagined therefore, that the open Importation of those Wines can be as great now as it was formerly. And the above-mention'd Account from the *Custom-house* shews, that for the last sixteen Years and a Quarter, the Wines imported into the Port of *London* from all Countries in the World, did not

not exceed 12491 Tuns, which was almost a thousand Tuns less than was imported in the last mentioned four Years from *France* only, and five or six thousand Tuns less than was fairly imported in that time from all the World. But are there fewer Taverns now in *London* than heretofore? Or does any Man think that the Consumption is lessened? And if it is not, then it is certain the Quantity must be made up by Wines that are clandestinely imported, and that our Luxury has increas'd with the Prices.

*French Clarets considered, if the Duties are reduced.*

But let it be admitted, that *London* now consumes no more than 12500 Tuns *per Ann.* does any one believe that we shall import less than 10000 Tuns of the Growth of *France*? Have we not accustomed ourselves to buy these Wines under almost double the Duties that are even now paid by those of other Countries? And will they not be universally preferr'd, if they shall pay no greater Duties than those of the Nations the most favour'd? Are we not infected as much as ever, with an Appetite towards every thing that is *French*? And if the Duties shall be reduced, is any other Wine so likely to be the common Draught of this Nation? And if this should be the Case, the Price of Clarets in *France* has advanc'd so much of late Years, by the great Demand of them over all *Europe*, that in all probability we shall pay as much for 10,000 Tuns, as we did heretofore for 13,500. But if the Customs shall be reduced upon *French* Wines to an Equality with those of *Portugal*, I can by no means yield, that 10,000 Tuns will be the whole

Quantity

Quantity imported, either fairly or clandestinely; I am afraid as many will be imported as ever.

But should I grant, that the Duties by the late Treaty of Commerce upon Wines and Brandies, shall be such, that our Consumption of them shall be lessen'd, I am very sure, this cannot be the Case of wrought Silks, of Linens, of Paper, or of their other Goods. The Increase of Duties upon their Linens, is very little more than a Half-penny for every Yard: And is this a Duty sufficient to keep them out? We may expect therefore, that they will be pour'd in upon us, in such Quantities, as to destroy all the new Looms we have set up in *England*, as well as in *Ireland* and *North Britain*, to the Ruin of above an hundred thousand of our People.

*And of their  
Manufac-  
tures and o-  
ther Goods.*

As for the Customs here upon most of the *French* Manufactures, which are to remain in force by the late Treaty; they are generally such, as with the whole Value of the Labour that is bestow'd upon them in that Kingdom, are yet under the Price that is given for the like Manufactures made in *England*. I need not resort to the *French* King's Reduction of the Price of Labour, by several former Alterations of his Coin in his Dominions: But 'tis notorious, that his Subjects are subsisted in a meaner manner, and live for less Wages than the labouring People of *Great Britain*. And then, can any one imagine that his Manufactures are not cheaper than our own? Or that we shall not buy the cheapest? It is not enough, therefore, for the *Mercator* to tell us, that Dear-  
ness

*French Ma-  
nufactures,  
notwithstan-  
ding the Du-  
ty, cheaper  
than English.*

ness of Commodities causes a Decrease of their Consumption: He ought also to shew us, that by the Duties which are to remain in force by the late Treaty, all the Manufactures we can import from *France*, will be so much dearer than our own, that our Merchants will be able to make very little Profit by importing; or otherwise, whether for our Luxury, or Necessities, they will still continue to import upon us.

Then for his other Maxim, that Cheapness of Commodities must needs increase the Consumption; and that consequently, by the Reduction of the *French* Duties upon our Goods to the Tariff of 1664, we shall be enabled to send more of our Woollen Manufactures to *France*, than we did in 1685, it is nothing at all to his purpose.

If we send any Manufactures to *France*, under the present high Duties; we have good reason to believe, that by taking off a Part of those Duties, our Exportations may be increased: But has the *Mercator* any where prov'd, that we send any Manufactures to *France*, under the Pressure of the present Duties? Our Exportations to *Dunkirk* or *Marseilles* prove nothing like it. No Duties are paid in those Places; and then, will our Exportations thither prove, that they are carried farther into that Country?

Will our Exportations to *France* in 1685, and under the Duties of that time, prove that we can send any Goods now, under any Duties at all? Have the *French* been labouring ever since at the Woollen Manufacture, and are they arriv'd at no Perfection? Have they plac-

ced



ced King *Philip* on the *Spanish* Throne, that they should now buy *Spanish* Wool, or *Spanish* Cloth from *England*? Or must we buy *Woollen* Manufactures from the *Netherlands*, because we did heretofore in the Time of the Dukes of *Burgundy*?

Unless therefore the *Mercator* can apply his Maxims of Dearness and Cheapness of Commodities to one and the same Year, they are by no means sufficient to argue upon from the past time to the present.

*The Entries for Flanders and the Straits are not for France.*

*Our Woollen Manufactures cannot go to France, neither at present, nor by the late Treaty. And for what Reasons.*

**W**ELL: There is no End of the *Mercator's* Exports to *France*; that's certain. Every thing that is enter'd at the *Custom-House* for *Flanders*, or the *Straits*, is carry'd into *France*, besides a World of Goods that are sent thither by the way of *Holland*. It is unhappy for him, that any Entries are made for the *East* or *West-Indies*, for *Portugal* or *Muscovy*; these Countries are either at too great a Distance, or too much out of his way; otherwise, we should also lose those Trades; all the Goods we are able to send any where, wou'd be swallowed up by *France*; he would damn all the *Custom-House* Accounts, and the Merchants for their false Entries to any other Country.

*Ridiculous to suppose the Goods enter'd for Flanders or the Straits, go for France*

But why are the Goods carried into *France*, that are enter'd out for *Flanders* and the *Straits*? Why? Because it pleases the *Mercator's* Fancy; not that he has any one Reason, besides his being hir'd to write for the Bill of Commerce, to induce him to be of that Opinion. No; whatsoever Reason there is, it is against him.

To instance in our Woollen Manufactures, which is the Grand Article of our Exports, the Staple Commodity of this Kingdom. Where wou'd any one believe that these are carry'd? To Countries that have not sufficient of them for their own People; or to those which, besides having enough for their own People, are able also to supply their Neighbours? To Countries which receive them indifferently into every Port; or to those which restrain the Importation of them to two or three Ports only, at the greatest Distance from the whole Body of their People? To Countries which receive them with very easy Duties; or to those which load them with such Duties as amount to Prohibitions? And lastly, to Countries which give our Merchants very little trouble upon the landing their Manufactures, or to those which subject them to very troublesome Visitations? To compare then the Case of *Italy* and *Flanders*; they have not sufficient of their own Woollen Manufactures for their own People; they admit ours equally into every Port, they lay upon them very moderate Duties, and they give our Merchants no manner of trouble upon their landing these Manufactures. In *France* every thing is the reverse;

no want of our Woollen Manufactures ; but three Ports where they are suffer'd to be imported ; excessive Duties, and exceeding troublesome Visitations. This is the Condition of our Trade with that Nation, even by the late Treaty ; but till that Treaty shall be made effectual, our Condition is still worse : And then, can any Man entertain the least Suspicion, that the Manufactures which are enter'd out for *Flanders* or the *Straits*, are carried into *France* ?

I shall particularly consider every one of the above-mention'd Circumstances ; by that time, I believe my Readers will be convinc'd, how unlikely it is, that any more of our Manufactures shou'd be carry'd into *France*, than appear in the *Custom-House* Accounts.

As for *Italy*, it never did abound with Woollen Manufactures : Both the Lands and the People of that Country have been employ'd another way. Silk is their chief Employment, in which they excel. But the People there wear Woollen Cloths ; and since they have not enough of their own, they supply themselves from *France* and *Great Britain* : And there is no great doubt but we shall continue to sell our Share, unless, by any ill Conduct of ours, we should provoke them to increase their Duties upon our Woollen Manufactures, which at present are very moderate.

*Flanders* heretofore, in the time of the Dukes of *Burgundy*, was the Seat of the Woollen Manufacture. We then sold our Wool to the *Flemings*, and bought from them our Woollen

England got  
the Woollen  
Manufac-  
tures from  
Flanders,  
and they set  
up Lace and  
Linen.

The Prohi-  
bition of  
their Lace  
binder'd our  
Woollen  
Exports.

France sup-  
plies Turkey  
with more  
fine Cloth  
than we.

Cloths. Since that time, by the coming in of the *Walloons*, by wholesome Laws, and by applying ourselves to the Work in earnest, we are arriv'd at Perfection. The *Flemings* are gone off to fine Lace and Linens, and we sell them yearly a very great Value of Woollen Cloths; and shall still, perhaps, be able to do this, unless by any Provocation we force them upon Prohibitions. We have learn'd better, I hope, by our late unsuccessful Attempts to prohibit the *Flanders* Laces, which made the *Flemings* retaliate upon us, and lessened our Exportation of Woollen Manufactures to the Value of several hundred thousand Pounds *per ann.* But without giving any of those Provocations, we have just reason to hope that our Exportations may be continued both to *Italy* and *Flanders*.

But can we hope to export any of our Woollen Manufactures into *France*? They have Wool of their own, and they can never want the finest sort from the Dominions of King *Philip*. They have followed it now for many Years with uncommon Application; and for the Encouragement of their Artists, they have put as many Hardships as possible upon Foreign Manufactures. They now not only supply their own People, but *Smyrna* and *Constantinople*, with more fine Cloths than are sent thither from *Great Britain*: and even *Italy*, as I observed before, is served with the Woollen Manufactures of *France*. And can we hope then to sell any of these Goods to such a Country? Is it not justly to be presumed, that the Woollen Manufactures which are entered out for *Flanders*

*Flanders* and the *Straits*, are consumed in *Italy* and *Flanders*? Can any one believe, that any of them go to *France*?

The next thing is the Ports. In *Italy* and *Flanders* our Woollen Manufactures are equally received in every Port; but even by the late Treaty of Commerce, by which it is pretended we are so very much favoured, they are admitted only in *Bordeaux*, *Rouen*, and *St. Valery*. And does this look as if the *French* were in earnest to receive our Woollen Manufactures?

Woollen admitted only into free Ports in France.

The Customs and Duties upon them will soon determine where the greatest Quantities are consumed. They are very moderate in *Italy*, they are not above 8 per Cent. in *Flanders*. In *France* they are prohibited at this time, and so indeed would be by the late Treaty, notwithstanding the Reduction of them by that Treaty. Woollen Cloths, every Piece of 25 Ells, that is, 31 Yards, are to pay by this kind Treaty, if ever it should be made effectual, according to the Tariff of 1699, Fifty five Livres, Ten Sols, or 3 *l.* 3 *s.* 4 *d.* that is, 2 *s.* and 8 *d.* for every Yard, or 20 per Cent. for Cloth of 13 *s.* and 4 *d.* per Yard, and almost 40 per Cent. for that of 7 *s.* per Yard. And is any one so fond as to believe that any will be carried into *France* by this Treaty? And much more is it possible to believe that any is sent thither now? Or that our Woollen Manufactures which are entred out for *Flanders* and the *Straits*, are carried afterwards into *France*?

The Duty on our Woollen Manufactures in Flanders.

And on Cloths in France.



*The Tariff  
no reason for  
the Bill of  
Commerce.*

Perhaps the *Mercator* will imagine that they steal from *Holland* and *Flanders* into *France*, without paying *French* Customs. There is not the least ground for this Imagination: But if they do, they will do so still; they will rather bear paying the moderate Customs of *Holland* and *Flanders*, than from 20 to 40 *per Cent.* by the Tariff of 1699. For whatsoever the *Mercator* fancies concerning the Tariff of 1664, the former is to be the Tariff by the late Treaty for our Woollen Manufactures. And if this should be the Case, there cannot be the least reason for the Bill of Commerce.

*Visitation  
of Goods  
considered.*

One thing still remains, and that is the Visitation. We are sure there is no such thing in *Italy* or *Flanders*, but by the late Treaty of Commerce they are subject to a Visitation; that is, they are to lie six or eight Months at the *Custom-house* to be Moth-eaten, till the President of the Customs shall have leave to be in perfect Health to make his Inspection, and then, if he pleases, he may measure them over in the Rain and the Dirt, and make them 20 *per Cent.* worse than they were before. With this and the extravagant Duties from 20 to 40 *per Cent.* we shall send a World of our Woollen Manufactures into *France*. Or it is wonderful likely that they should rather go thither under these Hardships, than to *Italy* and *Flanders*.

When I first read over the Treaty, I was astonished at the Exception of our Woollen Manufacture in the 9th Article; but I was still more astonished at the Hardships in the Articles annexed, and dated a Month afterwards. Yet

I can by no means wonder that the *Mercator* should think light of these Hardships, who has fallen foul upon the *Portugal* Treaty, which has taken off the Prohibition of our Woollen Manufactures in that Country. We are obliged however to the Ministers, who, as they did not apprehend these Difficulties in the late Treaty, have reserved them to the Parliament, which it is impossible should be mistaken.

The following Letter from an unknown Hand, contains so many excellent and self-evident Truths, that I resolve to pass it upon my Readers, without any Comment of my own.

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

“ THERE are none of her Majesty’s  
“ Subjects that are more obliged to those  
“ worthy Patriots, who last Session of Parlia-  
“ ment rejected the Bill of Commerce, than  
“ those concerned in the Woollen Manufac-  
“ tures: and since the Wealth and Prosperity  
“ of this Kingdom do in a great measure de-  
“ pend upon the Improvement thereof, and  
“ the profitable Trade carried on by the Ex-  
“ portation of the same; there is no doubt,  
“ but that both the Manufactures and the  
“ Merchants will be always assisted and en-  
“ couraged by our Legislators, in prosecuting  
“ so good a Work, and that tends so much  
“ to the publick Utility.

“ The Trade to those Nations therefore,  
“ who consume the greatest Quantity of our

*That Trade  
which takes  
off most of  
our Woollen  
Goods, to be  
most prom-  
oted.*

“ Woollen Manufactures, must and will be  
“ most effectually promoted.

“ And it is impossible, but that all those,  
“ who wish well to this Kingdom, will effec-  
“ tually discountenance our Commerce with  
“ every Country that excludes the Importati-  
“ on of our Woollen Manufactures, by im-  
“ posing such exorbitant Duties thereon, as  
“ amount to a Prohibition ; especially when it  
“ is manifest, that such Manufactures have  
“ been set up in opposition to ours, and that  
“ they not only supply themselves therewith,  
“ but interfere with us in our Trade to other  
“ Countries.

*Which the  
Trade are  
lost do so.*

“ I will therefore conclude, that our Com-  
“ merce with *Russia*, the *East Country*, *Ger-*  
“ *many*, *Holland*, *Flanders*, *Portugal*, the  
“ *Straits*, *Italy* and *Turkey*, with whom we  
“ traded during the late War, to the great  
“ Benefit of this Nation, will be encouraged ;  
“ and that due and proper Measures will be  
“ pursued, for restoring our former Traffick  
“ with *Spain*.

*The Parlia-  
ment will  
never encour-  
age French  
Manufac-  
tures.*

“ But it's not to be imagined, if ever the  
“ *French* Trade should be again under the  
“ Consideration of a *British* Parliament, that  
“ they will permit the Subjects of his most  
“ Christian Majesty to import their Manufac-  
“ tures into this Kingdom, to the vast Preju-  
“ dice (if not the utter Ruin) of our own, and  
“ to the great Discouragement of several of  
“ the aforesaid Trades, unless we can import  
“ our Woollen Manufactures and foreign  
“ Goods into *France*, whereby we might re-  
“ pair at least part of the Damage we should  
“ in such case suffer.

“ Our

“ Our Forefathers (it’s certain) enjoyed  
 “ a great Trade with that Kingdom many  
 “ Years, whilst they paid easy and reasonable  
 “ Duties, viz. 6 Livres for a Cloth, and 1  
 “ Livre for a Piece of Serge; then the Wool-  
 “ len Manufactures exported thither, amount-  
 “ ed to a vast Sum.

*The Trade  
 occasioned by  
 the former  
 Duties in  
 France.*

“ But as their own Manufactures encreas-  
 “ ed, they gradually imposed greater Customs  
 “ on ours, whereby that Trade was sensibly  
 “ discouraged; and no sooner had the present  
 “ French King established his Tariff in 1664,  
 “ whereby we were oblig’d to pay 40 Livres  
 “ for Custom of a Cloth, mix’d, or other-  
 “ wise, of 25 Ells, or 32 Yards (that is, on  
 “ a Long Cloth of 42 Yards two thirds, 53  
 “ Livres one third, which at 18 *d.* per Livre,  
 “ amounts to 4 *l.*) and extravagant Duties on  
 “ all our other Woollen Manufactures, but  
 “ the Exportation thereof declined apace.

*The Tariff  
 of 1664 ab-  
 dated that  
 Trade.*

“ And his Officers having since very fre-  
 “ quently, tho’ injuriously, detained the  
 “ Merchants Goods in the Custom-house for  
 “ several Months, before they could receive  
 “ them, and afterwards by opening and ex-  
 “ posing them, on purpose to discourage their  
 “ Importation, also by further increasing his  
 “ Duties, this great Trade dwindled to a  
 “ Trifle; so that during the last Peace which  
 “ continued above 3 Years, all the Cloth ex-  
 “ ported to France is valued by the Inspector-  
 “ General at no more than 24010 *l.* 9 *s.* 4 *d.*  
 “ And altho’ (according to the present Trea-  
 “ ty) those Duties are lessened from what they  
 “ were in 1687. yet we are still to pay for

*By the Im-  
 position of  
 Officers, and  
 farther Du-  
 ties, it fell  
 to a Trifle.*

*But 24000 *l.*  
 Value in  
 Cloth sent to  
 France in 3  
 Years.*

“ Custom of a Cloth of 25 Ells, 55 Livres  
 “ instead of 40 Livres as aforesaid, by the  
 “ Tariff of 1664.

“ If this then be impartially considered,  
 “ how small will the Exportation of our  
 “ Cloth and other Woollen Goods be for the  
 “ future ?

*The Encou-  
 rogement for  
 making Wol.  
 Goods in  
 France.*

“ It is therefore most certain, that his said  
 “ Majesty has nothing more at heart, than to  
 “ encourage the Consumption of his Woollen  
 “ Manufactures, and that he spares no Charge  
 “ to promote the same.

*Lewis xiv's  
 Care to esta-  
 blish his  
 Woollen Ma-  
 nufactures.*

“ For Instance: In 1665, He settled Mr.  
 “ *Joses Van Robay*, a foreign Protestant, at  
 “ *Abbeville* in *Picardy*, and by Letters Patent  
 “ granted to him and his Workmen the free  
 “ Exercise of their Religion, and several o-  
 “ ther very considerable Privileges, which  
 “ their Families enjoy to this Day. This  
 “ Clothier fixed the Manufacture of all sorts  
 “ of *Spanish* Cloth in that City, and the King  
 “ lent him by Agreement 2000 Livres for e-  
 “ very Loom he set up, until he had 40  
 “ Looms at work ; so that he received 80,-  
 “ 000 Livres. And at last it was found, he  
 “ had so well established that Manufacture,  
 “ that by degrees the Payment of the whole  
 “ was remitted.

*And imitate  
 the English.*

“ Again, that Monarch by an Arret of the  
 “ 19th of *October* 1688, granted to *Noel de*  
 “ *Varennnes* divers Immunities, to encourage  
 “ him to carry on the Manufacture of *Drap*  
 “ *de Londres*, (or Cloth made in Imitation of  
 “ what is sent from *London* to *Turky*) in the  
 “ Province of *Languedoc*.

“ And



“ And afterwards that Province was oblig-  
 “ ed to furnish the *Sieur Magi* and his Part-  
 “ ners with 30,000 Livres, to carry on the  
 “ same Manufacture of *Drap de Londres* at  
 “ *Clermont* and *Sette*; and they having volun-  
 “ tarily engaged themselves to transport 2000  
 “ Pieces of that Cloth to the *Levant*, by an  
 “ Arret of the second of *October* 1692, they  
 “ are permitted to carry the Goods they im-  
 “ port from thence at *Marselia*, by Transires  
 “ from *Lyons*, into all Parts of that Kingdom  
 “ (that is, without paying the Duties, of par-  
 “ ticular Provinces) nevertheless upon this  
 “ expresse Condition, that they export annual-  
 “ ly 2000 *Drap de Londres* to the *Levant*.

“ In 1670, a *Levant* Company was esta-  
 “ blished in *France*, and the King both at  
 “ that time and afterwards granted them ma-  
 “ ny Privileges; and tho’ it was some time  
 “ before their Trade flourished, yet they now  
 “ import at some of the principal Scales in  
 “ *Turky*, Cloth and Perpets, to a greater Va-  
 “ lue than our *Turky* Merchants.

*A Levant  
 Company in  
 France, who  
 import at  
 some Places  
 more Woollen  
 Goods than  
 the English.*

“ By these, and other proper Methods,  
 “ their Trade, and their Woollen Manufac-  
 “ tures, have been established in *France*, and  
 “ they are now brought to a very great Perfec-  
 “ tion.

“ Do not the People of that Kingdom, as  
 “ well as we in *Great Britain*, generally wear  
 “ Woollen Cloth, and Stuffs; and are not  
 “ those worn there, of their own Manufac-  
 “ ture?

*Woollen  
 worn in  
 France, as  
 well as in  
 England.*

“ Is it not acknowledged by all that have  
 “ lived in *Italy*, as well as in *Turky*, that they  
 supply

France furnishes Italy and Turkey, and did us with Stuffs and Druggets.

Spaniards wear French Stuffs instead of English Bays.

We imitate the French in some Woollen Goods.

Lighter Cloths required abroad than formerly.

The Venetian Cloth Manufacture sunk and rising.

“ supply those Countries with great Quantities of Woollen Manufactures ; and did they not formerly furnish us with *Stuffs* and *Druggets* to a great Value ?

“ Besides, have not the *Spaniards* laid aside their old Habit, which was made of *English* Bays, and are now clothed in *French* Stuffs ? &c. And can we be so very unhappy as to imagine, there are but few Woollen Manufactures in *France* ?

“ But the *Mercator* says, they are not so good as ours ; and I must confess they generally are not, especially their superfine Cloths : However, when it turns them to account, they will make them very near as good as their Neighbours, and can sell them much cheaper.

“ Have we forgot, that our *Drap de Berry*, *Serge de Nimes*, and other Goods, took their Names from their Manufactures ? But if they, or the Foreigners, with whom they trade, demand and are please with a lighter and worse made Cloth than ours, because it's cheaper ; are they not in the right to gratify them ?

“ Merchants and Manufacturers must endeavour to comply with the Humours and Fancies of those, to whom they vend their Commodities, or else they will soon lose their Trade.

“ The *Venetians*, some Years past, supply'd a great Part of *Italy* and the *Levant* with their fine Cloth, which is an excellent Manufacture : But, by being obliged by the Law of their Country, to keep up  
“ to

“ to their own Standard, have since in several Places, lost nine Parts in ten of that Trade.

“ What is become of our noble Manufacture of *Plunkets, Violets, and Blues*, formerly made in *Suffolk*? Are not these Sorts beat out entirely, by a slighter and inferior Sort, made in *Gloucestershire*? And are not the Cloths, even of this Country, which are made for Exportation, of less Substance than formerly?

*Our Cloths much lighter than heretofore.*

“ Let our *Salisbury* Clothiers answer, how many more superfine *Spanish* Cloths did they formerly sell for *Turky*, than at present: Or if the *Turky* Merchants would confess, what is the Reason, that That Part of their Trade is almost lost; I am afraid it would be found, that the *French* fine Cloth prevents the Consumption of ours; for it's obvious, by their present Exports, they are well enough inclin'd for the publick Good, to promote, nay to force a Trade in the *Levant*, and yet they take off but little of this sort of Cloth.

*French light Cloth prevents ours in Turkey.*

“ But in all Countries, how few are there, that buy the best Cloth, comparatively with those that are forc'd to content themselves with the inferiour Sorts?

“ If the *French* then come to the same foreign Markets with us, and have such sorts of Cloth as we have, tho' they are really inferiour; will not theirs be prejudicial to the Sale of ours?

“ The *Mercator* may tell a *Yorkshire* Clothier, that it's in vain for him to send up  
“ his

“ his Cloth to *London*, to be dispos’d of there;  
 “ because there are many better Sorts from the  
 “ *Western* Parts, to be sold every day in that  
 “ City : But he will never take his Advice,  
 “ nor credit what he says, any more than you  
 “ do.

“ In short, an inferior Commodity will al-  
 “ ways affect the Price of a better, at the same  
 “ Market.

French  
*Wool. Goods*  
*cheaper than*  
*ours, even*  
*allowing the*  
*Difference in*  
*the Goodness.*

“ But, however some may deceive them-  
 “ selves, or be deceived ; this is certain, The  
 “ *French* work cheaper than we can ; I mean,  
 “ they have much more Work done for a  
 “ Shilling in *France*, than we have here for  
 “ the same Value ; and they sell their Cloths,  
 “ *Perpets*, &c. abroad, considerably cheaper  
 “ than we can pretend to, with fair and just  
 “ Allowances for the Difference of the Good-  
 “ ness of the Manufacture. And for the Truth  
 “ hereof, I appeal to every unbiass’d Mer-  
 “ chant, that has lived abroad, where theirs  
 “ and our Manufactures are sold.

“ Formerly, the *Dutch* were our Rivals in  
 “ these Manufactures ; but the *French* having  
 “ been too hard for them, by almost ruining  
 “ their Trade in several foreign Markets, I  
 “ must now assert that the *French* are become  
 “ our principal Rivals abroad ; and I wish, we  
 “ find not the bad Effects thereof in a very  
 “ few Years.

“ But this must be submitted to : their In-  
 “ dustry, and the *Remissness* of others in for-  
 “ mer Times, has encreas’d their Woollen  
 “ Manufactures, and occasions their supply-  
 “ ing several foreign Countries with those  
 “ Manu-

“ Manufactures which interfere with ours ;  
“ the ill Consequences whereof can never be  
“ prevented, but by encouraging the Export-  
“ tation of the Woollen Manufactures to those  
“ Countries who trade with us on the Square,  
“ and by promoting the Manufactures of Silk,  
“ and other unwrought Materials which are  
“ the Returns thereof. If this be but prose-  
“ cuted, this Kingdom can never regret the  
“ Loss of a destructive Trade with *France* ; but  
“ on the contrary, shall remember, not only  
“ our late Legislators, but those also who pas-  
“ sed the Prohibition Act in the 30 *Car. II.* as  
“ Benefactors to their Country, and as such,  
“ with the highest Honour, Gratitude and Re-  
“ spect.

“ Before this Statute was in force, the  
“ Wool of this Kingdom was a mere Drug,  
“ and the Clothiers, I am sure, petition’d  
“ the Parliament several times, upon the ill  
“ State of their Trade : But in 3 Years af-  
“ ter, I find, Wool was advanced above 50  
“ *per Cent.* and such a Trade (says a good Au-  
“ thor in 1681) there is for Woollen Manu-  
“ factures, as *England* never saw in any for-  
“ mer Age.

“ But that you may be fully convinc’d,  
“ that this Nation has enjoyed a prodigious  
“ Advantage since that Trade was prohibited,  
“ examine the following Account, which is  
“ taken from Dr. *Davenant’s* Reports.

Exported



		<i>l.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>An Account of the In- crease of our Exports since the Prohibition Act, 30 Car. II.</i>	Exported from England in		
	1662-3 ——— —	2,022,812	4 0
	————— in 1668-9	2,063,274	19 0
		<hr/>	
	Total exported in those two Years before the <i>French</i> Trade was prohibited —	4,086,087	3 0
	Exported ——— in 1699, when the Trade between <i>France</i> and <i>England</i> was re- ciprocally carried on upon the same high Duties as are now in force ———	6,788,166	17 6
	————— in 1703, when we had a War with <i>Spain</i> , and before the great Increase of the <i>Portugal</i> Trade ——— ———	6,644,103	0 0
		<hr/>	
	Total exported in these two Years since the <i>French</i> Trade was either prohibited, or carried on with high Duties	13,432,269	17 6
	Deduct the first two Years Ex- ports as above ———	4,086,087	3 0
	So that the Exports of these two Years exceed the two Years Exports, when we had a free Trade with that Kingdom ——— ———	9,346,182	14 6

“ This, I must acknowledge, is a surprising  
 “ Difference ; but any Merchant, who will  
 “ thoroughly inform himself of the Trade that  
 “ was formerly, and is now carry’d on in  
 “ *Great Britain*, together with the Impor-  
 “ tance

" tance of our Silk and other Manufactures,  
" may account for it. I am,

S I R,

*Your Friend and Servant,*

*London, Dec.*

21. 1713.

S. M.

The Heads I am now to discourse upon  
are,

1. *Arguments to prove that there are Goods and Merchandizes which France may lawfully prohibit without any Violation of the late Treaty.*
2. *To explain the Meaning of the Words, WITH RESPECT TO THE GOODS AND MERCHANDIZES OF GREAT BRITAIN, in the ninth Article of that Treaty.*
3. *That the French King never intended to repeal his Prohibitions of foreign Goods imported from Great Britain.*
4. *To shew that the House of Commons doubted that the Words of the Treaty were not sufficient to repeal Prohibitions of foreign Goods.*
5. *That French Prohibitions of foreign Goods re-exported from England, are not repealed by the Treaty.*
6. *That France may prohibit the Importation of foreign Goods from Britain, without Violation of the Treaty.*
7. *That*

7. *That Foreign Goods exported to France, were heretofore half our Exports to that Kingdom.*

*Several Goods which France may prohibit.*

THERE are many Goods and Merchandizes in *Britain*, which are prohibited in *France* by the Edicts of his most Christian Majesty, or which are loaded with such Duties as amount to Prohibitions, and which that Prince may still continue to prohibit, or charge as he shall think fit, without any Breach of the late Treaty of Commerce. But has the *Mercator* ever had the Ingenuity to acknowledge this in any one of all his Papers? No, his Design is, that his Readers should believe that all Prohibitions are to be repeal'd.

Again, there are other Goods and Merchandizes, which by express Words in the late Treaty are excepted out of the general Rule of paying no higher Duties than those of the Tariff of 1664. But how slight is the Mention which the *Mercator* has made of these Exceptions? Not above once or twice in above an hundred of his Papers.

*A Fallacy in insinuating the Tariff of 1664.*

But we are so often told by him of the Tariff of 1664, the easy Duties of that Tariff, and of the Excellency of the Treaty, which has brought us back to those easy Duties, that the Generality of his Readers run away with this Delusion, that the above-mention'd Tariff is to be the universal Rule, that *France* is oblig'd by the late Treaty to admit all sorts of Goods from *Great-Britain* without any the least Exception, and all under no higher Duties than those of the above-mentioned Tariff. And then

then the next thing to be believ'd is, that Cheapness of Commodities is the Cause of increasing their Consumption, and that we shall make prodigious Exportations to that Kingdom.

My present Design is to take off this Delusion from his Readers: If any of them are so weak as to believe that *France* is oblig'd to repeal all her Prohibitions of all sorts of Goods which shall be exported hereafter from *Great Britain*, let them only read the late Treaty, and they will be convinc'd of their Mistake.

In the ninth Article of that Treaty are the following Words, *Omnesq; Prohibitiones, Tariffæ, Ediçta, Declarationes, sive Decreta post Tariffam illam Anni 1664, & contra illam* Goods and Merchandizes of Great Britain explained.  
**QUOAD BONA MERCESQUE MAGNÆ BRITANNIÆ** in Gallia factæ, abrogabuntur. The English Translation is thus, *And all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Ediçts, Declarations, or Degrees made in France since the said Tariff of 1664, and contrary thereunto, IN RESPECT TO THE GOODS AND MERCHANDIZES OF GREAT BRITAIN, shall be Repeal'd.* Now I must ask the Mercator or his Readers here, what are the Prohibitions that are to be repealed by these Words? Certainly the Prohibitions only, **QUOAD BONA MERCESQUE MAGNÆ BRITANNIÆ**; the Prohibitions only **WITH RESPECT TO THE GOODS AND MERCHANDIZES OF GREAT BRITAIN.** And what are these? Certainly they are the Prohibitions of the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*, and not of any other Country; and therefore  
by

by the above-mention'd Words, the Prohibitions only of the Goods and Merchandizes of this Country are to be repeal'd, and not those of the Goods and Merchandizes of other Nations.

The *Mercator* will needs have it understood, that all Commodities of which our Merchants are possess'd, whether of the Growth and Manufacture of *Great Britain*, or imported hither from any foreign Nation, are properly speaking of the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*. But what if *France* should not be of his Opinion? What if his most Christian Majesty should interpret the Manufactures of other Countries imported into *Great Britain*, or the Manufactures of *Great Britain* made or mixt with the Materials of foreign Countries, to be the Goods and Merchandizes of other Countries, and not of *Great Britain*? To whom shall she appeal? Or who is it that shall decide the Difference between the *Mercator* and his most Christian Majesty? If there is the least doubt of this, ought it not to be fully clear'd before the Treaty shall be made effectual?

*Notorious  
Partiality  
in wording  
the Treaty  
in favour of  
France.*

But his most Christian Majesty might very justly urge, that the whole Article explains the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*, to be only the Product and Manufactures of the very Country, and not those imported into *Great Britain* from other Countries. For in the former part of the ninth Article, the Laws to be repealed by us, are those made in *Great Britain* since the Year 1664, for prohibiting *Ullorum E GALLIA VENIENTIUM Bonorum Mercium*



*Mercimoniorumque Importationem*, in the Translation thus, *The importation of any Goods and Merchandizes* COMING FROM FRANCE. Now *Bona Mercimoniaque E GALLIA venientia*, or Goods and Merchandizes COMING FROM FRANCE, are undoubtedly all the Goods that come from thence, whether the Goods of that, or any other Country. Why then are we to repeal all our Prohibitions of Goods and Merchandizes COMING FROM FRANCE, when *France* is only oblig'd to repeal her Prohibitions OF THE GOODS AND MERCHANDIZES OF GREAT BRITAIN? Why are not the Terms of the Repeal the very same in both parts of the Article? His most Christian Majesty may say, that we, by the very Terms of this Article, are oblig'd to repeal our Prohibitions of all Goods that COME FROM FRANCE, whether they are the Goods of *France* or of any other Nation; whereas he is only oblig'd to repeal his Prohibitions of the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*, and not the Goods and Merchandizes of other Countries which are exported FROM GREAT BRITAIN. Will the *Mercator* affirm that such a Construction as this is a mere Chicane? Or will his most Christian Majesty be satisfy'd if he should? Certainly if he meant the same thing in both parts of the Article; if by Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain* he intended all those exported from *Great Britain*, whether the Product and Manufacture of that, or any other Country; he very well knew the Doubts of the

the last Parliament, and he would have explain'd that to be his Meaning.

But this whole Matter is admirably well discuss'd in part of a Letter I have received from one of my Correspondents. " In another place  
 " he, *sc.* the *Mercator*, says, that as to the  
 " Trade of *France*, he will put it on this Issue,  
 " that *England* is to enjoy all the Tariff of  
 " 1664, in as full a manner as was then en-  
 " joyed. I would readily agree with him it  
 " would be so, if there were no Exceptions  
 " in the ninth Article; and if as to the repeal-  
 " ing Prohibitions on both Sides, it had been  
 " said FROM *BRITIAN*, as it is said  
 " FROM *FRANCE*, would not one think  
 " that to avoid Dispute, the Terms should be  
 " the very same in both Places? Can any  
 " Man think that such a Difference, in  
 " correct a Thing as a Treaty, could be an  
 " Error of the Pen? Or ought it not rather  
 " to be believed that the thing was done with  
 " Design? And that the Goods and Merchan-  
 " dizes of *Great Britain*, meant something  
 " less than the Goods and Merchandizes ex-  
 " ported from *Great Britain*?

Goods im-  
 ported can-  
 not be re-  
 exported to  
 France.

" If his most Christian Majesty intended to  
 " put us fully on the Foot of 1664, and that  
 " all Prohibitions since that time in his King-  
 " dom should be repealed, Why did he not  
 " explain himself in this Manner? He knew  
 " this Difference was objected to the Treaty  
 " in the last Parliament; there was time e-  
 " nough during the Debates, to have had an  
 " Explanation. The *French* Deputies were  
 " here, they were certainly prepared on that

" Head

“ Head, and they could not but know their  
 “ Master’s Meaning. If he meant that no  
 “ more Goods from *Great Britain* should be  
 “ prohibited in *France* than in 1664, this  
 “ Meaning would have been explained. Since  
 “ *France* was not pleased to do this, it is plain  
 “ that by repealing her Prohibitions of the  
 “ Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*,  
 “ she never, intended to repeal those of Fo-  
 “ reign Goods exported from *Great Britain*.

“ The House of Commons seemed doubt-  
 “ ful in this Matter, and therefore provided  
 “ by their Bill of Commerce, that the Re-  
 “ peal of the *French* Prohibitions should ex-  
 “ tend as well to Manufactures of Foreign  
 “ Countries exported from *Great Britain*, as  
 “ to her proper Manufactures; and made the  
 “ Consent of *France* to this Proviso, a Condi-  
 “ tion, without which the Treaty could not  
 “ be made effectual. Could the House of  
 “ Commons have such a Doubt, and yet is the  
 “ thing so very clear in the Opinion of the  
 “ *Mercator*? If *France* should have explained  
 “ the Sense of the Article to be as asserted by  
 “ the *Mercator*, yet that very Explanation  
 “ had over-thrown his Assertion, and shewn  
 “ that the Treaty had not put us upon the  
 “ Foot of 1664, with respect to Prohibi-  
 “ tions. The very Explanation had shewn  
 “ that the Treaty wanted one, so that the  
 “ *Mercator*’s Assertion had been still false, that  
 “ the Treaty had restored us to the Foot of  
 “ 1664, with respect to Prohibitions: it has  
 “ not yet done, nor can do it, without an  
 “ Explanation.

*The Tariff  
 of 1664 as  
 insinuated, a  
 Fallacy.*

“ My

“ My Correspondent here has undoubtedly  
 “ falsify’d the Assertion of the *Mercator*, but  
 “ that is the least part of my Ambition ; what  
 “ I principally intend here is to shew, that the  
 “ late Treaty of Commerce does not put us  
 “ upon the Foot of 1664, with respect to  
 “ our *French Trade*.

If the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*, are not so comprehensive Words as the Goods and Merchandizes exported from *Great Britain* ; if the Commons in Parliament doubted that they did not signify the same thing ; if his most Christian Majesty was not so obliging as to satisfy their Doubt, and to explain the Words to that Sense ; then it is certain, that by Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*, he could mean nothing more than the Product and Manufactures of this Kingdom, but not the Product and Manufactures of Foreign Countries imported thither, and afterwards re-exported.

And if this was his Meaning, if the Treaty obliges him only to repeal his Prohibitions of the Product and Manufactures of *Great Britain*, and not of those imported into *Great Britain* from other Countries ; and if there are no other Words than the above-mentioned, which disable his most Christian Majesty from making new Prohibitions ; then it is certain, without any Violation of this Treaty, all the *French Prohibitions* of Foreign Goods remain still in their full Force, and he may add as many more to them as he shall think fit.

But there will be little need of his adding any new Prohibitions to the old. *East-India*  
 and

and *Turky* Manufactures are absolutely prohibited in that Kingdom, whether imported by his own or the Subjects of other Nations. This appears by the *Edict* I have exhibited in my first Volume. All other Merchandize of Foreign Growth, or Manufacture, or made or mixed with Foreign Materials, are forbid to be imported by *English* Merchants, by the *Edict* of 1701, of which I have exhibited an *Extract*. And if this is not sufficient, *France* is still at liberty by this Treaty to prohibit all other Foreign Goods; and whether she may not construe our very Plantation Goods to be such, is a Matter worth explaining.

East-India  
and *Turky*  
Manufac-  
tures probi-  
bited in  
France.

Our Foreign Goods, and those made or mixed with Foreign Materials, together with a very few Plantation Goods, were almost half the Value of our whole Exports to *France*, between *Michaelmas* 1685 and *Michaelmas* 1686, as appears by the Account: but if all these are now prohibited, or may be prohibited if *France* pleases, without any Violation of the late Treaty; how then could the *Mercator* say, that as to our Trade, we are put upon the foot of 1664? How can this be, if the Treaty does not provide for the Repeal of Prohibitions of our Foreign Goods, or against the making any new ones?

Foreign  
Goods, Goods  
mix'd with  
foreign Ma-  
terials, and  
Plantation  
Goods, were  
almost half  
our Exports  
to France.

Thus much for the Goods and Merchandizes which are not comprehended in the Treaty; but our Condition will appear to be still worse, with respect to those that are excepted from it.

'Tis asserted by the Friends of *France*,  
That England is to enjoy all the Tariff of  
VOL. II. F 1664,



1664, in as full a manner as was then enjoyed.

France may  
prohibit all  
foreign  
Goods from  
England,  
without Vi-  
olation of  
the Treaty.

It is certain, that at that time we had liberty to export Foreign Goods to *France*, as well as those of our own Growth and Manufacture, and that too subject to no other Duties or Prohibitions than were then in being. But since the Year 1664, many Foreign Goods are absolutely prohibited to be imported into *France*, whether by the Subjects of that or any other Nation. Many others of them, if exported into *France* by *English* Merchants, are charged in that Country with such Duties as amount to Prohibitions. And none of these Prohibitions or high Duties upon our Foreign Goods, are taken off by the late Treaty : So far from this, that his most Christian Majesty may absolutely prohibit the Importation of all Foreign Goods whatsoever from hence into his Kingdom, without any Violation of that Treaty, as I have shewn at large. If we could export Foreign Goods to *France* in 1664, subject only to the Duties of that Tariff, and are not enabled to do it now by our late Treaty of Commerce, how could any have the Confidence to assert, *That England is to enjoy all the Tariff of 1664, in as full a manner as was then enjoyed?*

Our foreign Goods exported heretofore to *France*, as I have made appear, amounted in one Year to almost one half of our whole Exports to that Kingdom. How then can our Exportations be as large as ever, when his most Christian Majesty either has prohibited, or may if he pleases, prohibit one half of the whole, without any Violation of our late Treaty ?

Our

Our foreign Goods then are none of those which by the late Treaty are comprehended within the Rule of the Tariff of 1664. But some also of our own Growth and Manufacture, are expressly and by Name excepted out of that Rule, by the ninth Article of the late Treaty, particularly our Woollen Manufactures.

*Wool. Goods  
excepted by  
the 9th Ar-  
ticle.*

Strange! A Treaty of Commerce, by which our Woollen Manufactures, the stable Commodity, the Life and Soul of this Nation, are excepted out of the Number of Goods which we are permitted to export to *France*! And will the Lords in Parliament hereafter sit upon their WOOL-SACKS? Will they suffer themselves to be upbraided by their very Seats, that a Treaty of Commerce has been made between *France* and *England*, and that our Woollen Manufactures were excepted out of the Goods allowed to be exported to that Kingdom? Certainly they will never be consenting to that Treaty while there are any Wool-sacks in their House.

*The Lords  
who sit on  
Wool-Sacks  
can never  
consent to  
this Treaty.*

Our Woollen Manufactures were usually above half the whole that we exported heretofore to that Nation. And has any Man the Confidence to assert, *That England is to enjoy all the Tariff of 1664, in as full a manner as was then enjoyed?* Or that our Exportations shall be as large as ever, when above half the Value of those of our native Manufactures are excepted by this very Treaty?

*Our Woollen  
formerly  
above half  
our Exports  
to France.*

Our foreign Goods which are not comprehended within the Rule of the Tariff of 1664, and our Woollen Manufactures which are ex-

cepted from it, were at least three fourth Parts of the Value of the Goods and Merchandizes which we usually exported heretofore to *France*. And how are our Exportations to be as large as ever, when of these three fourth Parts, little or nothing is to be exported ?

By the Treaty of Commerce, as it was executed the thirty first day of *March* last, this was the Case of our Woollen Manufacture ; *France* might either totally prohibit them, or load them with as high Duties as she pleased. Whatsoever she had done of this kind, had been very consistent with that Treaty.

Indeed, by subsequent Articles executed a Month after, she has vouchsafed to give us the following Article for our Woollen Manufacture, which was excepted by the above-mentioned Treaty.

Second Article.

*Wool. Goods  
in a manner  
prohibited  
by the  
Treaty.*

“ Cloths, Ratines, and Serges, shall be  
“ likewise subject to the Duties of the Ta-  
“ riff of 1699. and in order to facilitate the  
“ Trade thereof, it shall be allowed to im-  
“ port them by *St. Valery* upon the *Somme*, by  
“ *Rouen*, and by *Bourdeaux*, where these  
“ Goods shall be subject to Visitation, in the  
“ same manner as those which are made in the  
“ Kingdom.”

A very extraordinary Favour this ! And every good Englishman ought to be as thankful to *France* for it, as if his most Christian Majesty had in express words prohibited the Importation of those Goods into his Country !

For

For first the Reader is to observe, that they are to be subject to a Visitation; that is, the Merchant abroad is not to take them from the *Custom-house*, till the President of the Customs in the place where they are landed is well enough, or at leisure, to make his Inspection; and he may be indisposed as long as the King will give him leave, till the Manufacture is quite moth-eaten, and good for nothing. And if with great Solicitation at Court, the Officer shall be directed to inspect the Goods, he shall chuse the open Air and a rainy Day for this purpose, that they may be quite spoiled. Are we subject to any such Visitation in *Holland*, *Germany*, *Italy*, or *Portugal*?

The next thing is, that we have three Ports, *St. Valery*, *Rouen*, and *Bordeaux*, to facilitate our Trade to that large Kingdom. That is just as if we were to permit the *French* to import their Wines only into *Plymouth*, *Chester* and *Liverpool*, to facilitate their Trade to this Kingdom. To facilitate our Trade? I could not have imagined the many Victories we have obtained, should have rendered us so much the Scorn of that Nation.

The 3 Ports  
allowed us  
considered.

The next thing to be observed is, that not one of these three Ports is in *Britany*, which was almost the only Place for taking off our Woollen Manufactures; either because the People there were employed in others, or were at too great a distance from *Picardy*, and other places where the like are made. That Province too was never accustomed to pay as high Duties as others Provinces of *France*. This I think was the Condition of its being annexed

Reasons for  
restraining  
us to 3 Ports.

by *ANNE* of *Bretagne* to that Kingdom; instead of Taxes they presented the Prince with free Gifts. But now it seems they must pay the Duties of the Tariff of 1699, since they are not to have the Manufactures but through other Provinces, where they have been already paid. And this seems to be a principal Reason of restraining us to three Ports, and none of those in *Britany*.

The last thing to be considered is, the Duties to be paid by the Tariff of 1699, which and not those of 1664, are to be the Duties by our late Treaty. For my own part, I believe we should send very little of our Woollen Manufactures to *France*, tho' she had granted us this last Tariff entire, and without any manner of Exception.

It is not the same thing now as when that Tariff was made: the *French* were then in the Infancy of their Woollen Manufacture; they have been labouring at it ever since, and are now arrived at very great Perfection, and it is not therefore to be imagined, that ours can be kept out now by as small Duties as heretofore, when they had very few of their own.

But because we are harangu'd very often upon the lowness of Duties to be paid hereafter in *France* by our Woollen Manufactures, and told that they are but about 10 *per Cent.* or the tenth part of their whole Value, the Reader will be convinced by the following Letter of my Correspondents, that the Duties are vastly beyond 10 *per Cent.* by the Tariff of 1664, and yet  
vastly



vastly more more by that of 1699, which is to be the Rule by our last Treaty.

To the British Merchant.

S I R,

“ YOU not giving your Readers such a  
 “ distinct Account as they expected of  
 “ the Custom payable in *France*, on Woollen  
 “ Cloth made in *Great Britain*; we have ta-  
 “ ken the Liberty to transmit you the Particu-  
 “ lars of what was paid, according to the *Ta-*  
 “ *riff* of 1664, and what is to be paid by the  
 “ *Tariff* of 1669, which last is the Rate fixed  
 “ by the late Treaty of Commerce with *France*,  
 “ viz.

By the *Tariff* of 1664.

“ 25 Ells, or  $31\frac{1}{4}$  Yards of Broad Cloth, paid  
 “ 40 Livres, which at 18 *d.* per Livre, amounts  
 “ to 3 *l.*  
 “ 30 Ells, or  $37\frac{1}{2}$  Yards of *Spanish* Cloth,  
 “ paid 70 Livres, at 18 *d.* per Livre, amounts  
 “ to 5 *l.* 5 *s.*

By the *Tariff* of 1669, which is the *Tariff* by  
 which we are to pay by the Treaty,

“ 25 Ells, or  $31\frac{1}{4}$  Yards of Broad Cloth, is to  
 “ pay 55 Livres, or 4 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.* The Duty  
we are to  
pay to  
France.  
 “ 30 Ells, or  $37\frac{1}{2}$  Yards of *Spanish* Cloth, is  
 “ to pay 100 Livres, or 7 *l.* 10 *s.*  
 “ And whereas both you and the *Mercator* a-  
 “ gree that a short Cloth is to be valu'd at 8 *l.*  
 “ and a long Cloth at 10 *l.* at a Medium;  
 “ there-

*The British Merchant.*

“ therefore, the Custom of a short Cloth, which  
 “ contains about  $31\frac{1}{4}$  Yards,

“ By the  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1664 \text{ paid } 3l. \text{ or } 37\frac{1}{2} \\ 1669 \text{ pays } 4l. \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{per C. ad} \\ \text{Valorem.} \end{array} \right\}$   
 “ Tariff of  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2 \text{ s. } 6 \text{ d.} \\ \text{or } 51\frac{1}{2} \end{array} \right.$

And a long Cloth, which contains at least  $41\frac{2}{3}$   
 Yards, which is  $\frac{1}{3}$  Part more than 25 Ells,  
 must consequently pay,

“ By the  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1664 \text{ } 4l. \\ \text{or } 40 \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{per C. ad} \\ \text{Valorem.} \end{array} \right\}$   
 “ Tariff of  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1699 \text{ } 5l. \text{ } 10 \text{ s.} \\ \text{or } 55 \end{array} \right.$

A *Spanish* Cloth containing  $37\frac{1}{2}$  Yards, by the  
 Tariff of 1664, paid as aforesaid  $5l. \text{ } 5 \text{ s.}$   
 that is,  $2 \text{ s. } 9 \text{ d. } \frac{2}{3}$  per Yard. Which,

“ on a  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 8 \text{ s. per Yard, is } 35 \\ 12 \text{ s. per Yard, is } 23\frac{1}{3} \\ 16 \text{ s. per Yard, is } 17\frac{1}{2} \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{per C. ad} \\ \text{Valorem.} \end{array} \right\}$   
 “ Cloth of

By the Tariff of 1699, said Cloth is to pay  $7l. \text{ } 10 \text{ s.}$  that is,  $4 \text{ s.}$  per Yard. Which,

“ on a  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 8 \text{ s. per Yard, is } 50 \\ 12 \text{ s. per Yard, is } 33\frac{1}{3} \\ 16 \text{ s. per Yard, is } 25 \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{per C. ad} \\ \text{Valorem.} \end{array} \right\}$   
 “ Cloth of

“ If it should be objected, that at present the  
 “ Livre of *France* is not worth  $18 \text{ d.}$  you will  
 “ remember, that by the *French* King's late Edict,  
 “ or Arret, (a Translation whereof is in the *Daily*  
 “ *Courant* of the 6th of *October* 1714.) for re-  
 “ gulating the Diminution of his Coin, a *French*  
 “ Crown is to pass after the 1st of *June* 1715,  
 “ for three Livres ten Sols; and then the intrin-  
 “ sick Value of a Livre will be rather more than  
 “  $18 \text{ d.}$  We are

*Your Humble Servants,*

A. B. C.

I desire now the *Mercator* will inform us, what Quantities of our Woollen Cloths may be carry'd into *France*, under these extravagant Duties of 1699 : Or how much our Exportations may be enlarg'd by the Increase of Duties by that Tariff ; or whether he will still affirm *that we are now to enjoy the Tariff of 1664, in as full a manner as was then enjoy'd ?*

*The Treaty of Commerce with France will not increase our Exportations to that Country ;*

*But will vastly lessen those to other Countries.*

*It can neither increase our Capital Stock of Gold and Silver ;*

*Nor the Employment and Subsistence of our People ;*

*Nor the Value of our Lands.*

**I** Would very gladly now be inform'd by any Person, what we shall get by a Law for rendring effectual the eighth and ninth Articles of the Treaty of Commerce : Shall we enlarge our Exportations by means of such a Law ? Will Gold and Silver flow in upon us more plentifully than they did before ? Will our People be better able to subsist themselves by their own Labour ? Will our Lands rise in value, or our Rents be better paid ? These are the Rules, the only Rules, by which it is possible to state and determine the Value of any particular

*The Treaty  
does not en-  
large our  
Exports.*

cular Trade, or of the universal Trade of the whole Nation.

And first of all, shall we enlarge our Exportations? To what Country shall we export more Goods than we did before? Shall we export more to the *French* Nation? Yes, says the *Mercator*, we are to have the Tariff of 1664 in as full a manner as it was then enjoy'd; and he would therefore have us believe, that we shall export as many Goods as we did then. But I think I have fully prov'd that the Prohibitions and high Duties, which have been imposed in *France* since that Tariff, upon Foreign Goods exported from this Kingdom, are still in force: and his most Christian Majesty may add as many more to them as he pleases, without any Violation of our late Treaty. Foreign Goods are not intitled by the Treaty to the Benefit of that Tariff, they are in no better a Condition than they were before, they may be entirely prohibited if that Prince pleases: so that the Treaty does by no means enable us to enlarge our Exportations with respect to foreign Goods.

Others of our principal Goods and Merchandizes, and among those, our Woollen Manufactures, are by express words in the Treaty, excepted from the Rule of paying no greater Duties than by the Tariff of 1664. So that all these excepted Goods, as they stand in the ninth Article, were left to his most Christian Majesty's Direction to tax as he thought fit. I must confess I was amaz'd, that in a Treaty of Commerce there should be such an Exception to our Woollen Manufactures.

Indeed,

Indeed, by other Articles executed a Month after, instead of admitting those excepted Goods, that Prince has been pleased to grant us a shew of admitting them, but into such Ports only, and under such Restrictions, upon such Conditions, and paying such exorbitant Duties, that nothing can more manifest his Design of excluding them for ever from his Countries. I have already given an Instance of this, and shewn that this is plainly the Case of the Restrictions and Duties upon our Woollen Manufacture.

Our foreign Goods, our Corn, our Woollen Cloths, are in no better Condition with, than without the late Treaty of Commerce; and the same thing may be said of our Fish, Sugar, and all our Woollen Manufactures. The Treaty of Commerce will not enable us to make greater Exportations of these things to *France*, than we do at present. These have formerly been nine Parts in ten of the Value we exported to that Nation. And then what a Trifle is all the rest?

The Treaty of Commerce does not make way for any of the above-mentioned Goods to go to *France*. And as for the inconsiderable Remainder, it consists generally of such Goods as *France* wants, and cannot have from any other Country but ours, such as Lead, Tin, &c. She had these Things from us, even during the last War, by the way of neutral Countries; and she must have them either thus, or directly from hence, at whatsoever Price. And she will take no more of them than she wants, tho' the Prices of them should be reduced. She therefore



therefore puts them upon the Foot of the Tariff of 1664, not for our sakes but her own. So that I have answer'd the first Question, the Treaty of Commerce will not enlarge our Exportations to *France*.

*Imports from France increas'd, but our Exports to other Countries less'n'd.*

The next is, whether by means of this Treaty, they are like to be enlarged to other Countries? There is no dispute, but that our Importations from *France* will be increased by it. If *France* is to pay no higher Duties than other Countries, and can produce as good or better Commodities, and is also nearer at hand, so that the Carriage will not cost so much; there can be no question but our Importations thence will be increased.

But whether the Increase of our Importations from *France* will be a Means to increase or lessen our Exportations to other Countries, is a thing that ought to be considered.

If we are to judge of future Time by the past and present, the Treaty of Commerce, and consequently the Increase of our Importations from *France*, must needs lessen our Exportations to other Countries.

I must again refer my Reader to the Extract out of Dr. *Davenant's* Report, as follows.

Our Exports to all the World from *England*.

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
In 1662-3 were	—	2,022,812	04	00
In 1668-9 were	—	2,063,274	19	00

In

l. s. d.

In 1699, when the Trade between *France* and *England* was reciprocally carried on upon the same high Duties as are now in force,

6,788,166 17 06

In 1703, when we had a War with *Spain*, and before the great Increase of our Trade to *Portugal*,

6,644,103 00 00

Here the Reader is pleased to observe, that in 1662, even before the Tariff of 1664, and when the Duties upon our Goods were a great deal less in *France* than by that Tariff, yet our Exports to all Parts of the World in that Year amounted to no more than Two Millions, Twenty two Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twelve Pounds, Four Shillings.

Again, in 1669, even after *France* had loaded us with the severe Tariff of 1667, yet our Exports to all the World amounted in 1669, to two Millions, Sixty three Thousand, two Hundred and Seventy four Pounds, nineteen Shillings.

The Difference between the two Years is inconsiderable; so that it seems the Case was much the same, whether we pay low Duties or high Duties in *France*, our Exportations to all the World differed but a very little.

Nay, we made the greater Exportations to all the World, even when *France* loaded our Goods with higher Duties. And yet without doubt, the Consumption of our Manufactures was lessened in *France* in 1669, by those higher

er Duties ; but then it is certain it must have increased in other Countries.

In 1699, our Exports to all the World amounted to Six Millions, Seven Hundred and Eighty eight Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty six Pounds, Seventeen Shillings and Sixpence ; above three times as much as in either of the former Years.

In 1703, our Exports to all the World were Six Millions, Six Hundred and Forty four Thousand, One Hundred and three Pounds, that is almost as much as in 1699 ; but still above three times as much as in either of the former Years.

The Duties in *France* upon our Goods in 1699, were the very same as they are now, even before the Treaty of Commerce is made effectual ; and yet our Exportations to all the World were above three times as great as in 1662, even when we had a more easy Tariff than that of 1664. And yet it is certain, that in 1699, we could make no greater Exportations to *France* than we do now, because the Duties in both Years were the very same.

But whatever Exports we made to *France* in 1699, it is certain we exported very little in 1703, for in that Year we were at War, and our Goods and Merchandizes were all prohibited in that Kingdom. And notwithstanding this, and tho' we had then also a War with *Spain*, and could send little or nothing to that Country, yet our Exports to all the World were almost as great as in 1699, and above three times as great as in 1662, when we were

## *The Trade with France.*

III

were every where at Peace, and paid so very easy Duties in the *French* Dominions.

Now what can be the Reason that our whole Trade is so much better, when our Goods in *France* are either prohibited, or loaded with excessive Duties? It can be no other than that the *French* Goods here are either prohibited, or loaded with higher Duties than those of other Countries, that we therefore chuse to buy the Goods of other Countries; and that these in return enlarge their Trade with us, and take off so many more of our Manufactures.

But then if we should increase our Importations from *France*, as we shall certainly do if the Treaty be made effectual, shall we not lessen our Importation of the like Goods from other Countries? And will not these in return take off so much less of our Goods and Merchandizes? Especially *Portugal*, which by her very Treaty buys our Woollen Manufactures, upon condition that we will buy her Wines.

The Result of all that has been said, is, that our *French* Treaty of Commerce, far from increasing our Exports to *France*, is like to lessen those to other Countries; and that our present annual Exports of the Value of Six Millions and a half, shall be reduced again to two Millions, as they were before the Year 1664, and when he had a better Tariff than is granted us by this Treaty.

And if we shall export less Goods and Merchandizes than we did before, will our Gold and Silver be increased? Have we any Gold or Silver, but in exchange for our own Commodities?

*Gold and  
Silver.*

dities? and shall we get more by exporting Commodities of the Value of two Millions, than by exporting the Value of six Millions and a half?

*Subsistence  
of our Peo-  
ple.*

And then for the Employment and Subsistence of our People, can it be conceived that greater Numbers will be subsisted by making Manufactures for Exportation of the Value of two Millions, than above thrice as great a Value? Or rather, is it not certain, that as many People must come to the Parish for Subsistence, as are now maintained by their own Labour, for the difference of the two Sums, that is, for four Millions and a half?

*Lands and  
Rents.*

And Lastly, are our Lands likely to rise in Value by these Means? are the Rents like to be better paid, when the Demands of so vast a part of our Product shall cease in other Countries, when so many of our own labouring People shall be disabled to buy either Cloths for their Backs or Meat for their Bellies; when instead of doing this, they must be subsisted at the Cost of our Landed Interest?

But if *France* must be gratify'd by such a Treaty of Commerce, I must conclide, O Miserable *England*!



*A Letter concerning the Manuscript cited by the Inspector-General, and the Report of the Commissioners of the Customs in defence of the old Scheme.*

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

“ YOU suffer the *Mercator*, in several of  
“ his late Papers, to go triumphing on  
“ with his Answer to the Letter, written in  
“ defence of the OLD SCHEME. And  
“ since the Author of that excellent Letter  
“ has not yet thought fit to reply, I have pre-  
“ sumed to send you my own Thoughts upon  
“ the Answer, which, if they shall not fully  
“ satisfy your Readers, may at least prepare  
“ them to expect from that Author such a De-  
“ fence of the SCHEME, as shall never be  
“ replied to by your Adversary.

“ It is pity to abridge that excellent Letter,  
“ but if I should not begin with the Substance  
“ of it, I shall hardly make my self intelligible  
“ to your Readers.

“ The OLD SCHEME subscribed by  
“ the most eminent of the *French* Merchants  
“ in 1674, gives the Parcels of the Woollen  
“ Manufactures exported to *France* in 1668-9  
“ from the Port of *London*, with a Valuation  
“ of the Particulars, and makes the whole a-  
“ mount to no more than 61,546 *l*.

“ The Report from the Commissioners of  
“ the Customs mentioned in the *Mercator*,  
No.

“ No. 11. which was laid before the last Par-  
 “ liament, and pretended to be taken from the  
 “ Entries, makes the Parcels of Woollen Ma-  
 “ nufactures exported in that Year, to be much  
 “ greater than those in the SCHEME ; so that  
 “ according to the Valuation of the Particu-  
 “ lars in the SCHEME, the whole Value ex-  
 “ ported by the Report, must have been 93-  
 “ 396 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.*

“ From the difference of the Quantities  
 “ in the SCHEME, and the Report of the  
 “ Commissioners, the *Mercator* argued that  
 “ the former must have been false, and gave  
 “ this as one of his mortal Stabs to the  
 “ SCHEME.

“ The Author of the abovementioned Let-  
 “ ter sign’d *K. K.* undertakes the Cure of this  
 “ Wound, and defends the SCHEME, not  
 “ by the Authority of the Inspector-General of  
 “ the Customs, but by a Fact he has cited  
 “ from his Report, which was this, that the  
 “ whole Woollen Manufactures exported  
 “ that Year to *France* from the Port of *London*,  
 “ amounted to no more than 68521 *l.* 17 *s.*  
 “ which is 24874 *l.* 8 *s.* 6 *d.* short of the  
 “ Value exported, according to the Report of  
 “ the Commissioners of the Customs, and but  
 “ a very inconsiderable Sum more than the  
 “ Value exported by the SCHEME.

“ Hence the Letter argues, that the Par-  
 “ cels in the SCHEME, and the Inspector-  
 “ General’s Report, might very well be the  
 “ same, tho’ a little over-valued by the lat-  
 “ ter, but that the Parcels could not be the  
 “ same in the Report of the Inspector-Gen-  
 “ ral

“ ral, and that of the Commissioners of the  
“ Customs, since the Value of the latter is  
“ 24,874 *l.* 8 *s.* 6 *d.* more than that of the  
“ Inspector-General.

“ The Question then is, which is more to  
“ be believed, the Inspector-General, or the  
“ Commissioners of the Customs ?

“ Not to mention here, that the former  
“ was upon his Oath, he affirms, that he has  
“ taken his Value from a Manuscript remain-  
“ ing in the *Custom-house*, which appeared to  
“ him to have been an Authentick Copy of  
“ what had been offer’d heretofore to a House  
“ of Commons ; and this Manuscript he af-  
“ firms was all the Light he was able to gain  
“ into the Transactions of past Times relating  
“ to the Exports and Imports between *France*  
“ and *England*.

“ The Inspector-General made his Report  
“ after the first Session of the last Parliament ;  
“ and if his Manuscript was all the Light he  
“ was then able to gain into the Transactions  
“ of the above-mentioned Year, it is plain  
“ there could not be any of those Entries at  
“ the *Custom-house*, from whence the Com-  
“ missioners of the Customs have made a Re-  
“ port of the Exports of our Woollen Manu-  
“ factures so different from those of that Ma-  
“ nuscript. Whence the Letter very justly  
“ argues, That the Manuscript must have  
“ been the right, and the Commissioners Re-  
“ port a wrong Account of the Exports of  
“ that Year.

“ And hence it will follow, that the Ma-  
“ nuscript and the SCHEME, which may  
“ very

“ very well agree in the Quantities of our  
 “ Exports, tho’ they differ a little in the Val-  
 “ uations, may be the same thing ; and that  
 “ the SCHEME is a more authentick Ac-  
 “ count, and much more to be depended on,  
 “ than the Report of the Commissioners of the  
 “ Customs.

“ Now to this what Answer has the *Mercator* yet given ? Why, he says, No. 96.  
 “ that the Inspector-General says of the  
 “ SCHEME, *that it was maliciously made use*  
 “ *of by some that had a mind to defame and dis-*  
 “ *turb the Government*, but that the Trade to  
 “ *France* was a beneficial Trade to this Na-  
 “ tion. In No. 97. That *Schemes* have  
 “ been heretofore laid before the Parliament,  
 “ which to enhance the Over-Ballance of the  
 “ *French Trade* against *England*, have valued  
 “ their Wines at 36 *l. per Tun*, and Brandies  
 “ at 45 *l. per Tun* ; when according to the  
 “ Judgment of experienced Merchants, they  
 “ were not worth above 8 or 9 *l. per Tun*.  
 “ And in 98, That the great Coinage of Gold  
 “ and Silver in the Mint, from 1650 to 1688,  
 “ is a Demonstration, that we could not lose  
 “ a Million Sterling *per Ann.* by the *French*  
 “ Trade, since our Trade to *Spain* was never  
 “ able to repay such a Sum. And from hence  
 “ the *Mercator* concludes, that the OLD  
 “ SCHEME is condemn’d, and the *French*  
 “ Trade prov’d to be beneficial, by the Au-  
 “ thority of the Inspector-General, a Witness  
 “ of your own calling.

“ I cannot but observe here in the first  
 “ Place, that the Inspector-General is not ci-  
 “ ted

“ ted in the above-mentioned Letter as a Wit-  
“ nefs for the Old SCHEME, or againſt the  
“ *French Trade*, for ſake of his Opinion or  
“ Authority, but for the Evidence of a Fact,  
“ of which he could not have ſufficient Know-  
“ ledge, and which is inconfiſtent with the  
“ Report of the Commiſſioners of the Cu-  
“ ſtoms, and an Answer to one of the *Merca-*  
“ *tor's* chief Arguments againſt the OLD  
“ SCHEME.

“ He may be a good Witneſs of a Fact, yet  
“ for his Opinion, it may be no better than  
“ another Man's. For example, in Pag. 46.  
“ of his Report, he ſays, that in the Year  
“ 1662, our Imports from all the World ex-  
“ ceeded our Exports 1,993,207 *l.* 14 *s.* And  
“ in the Year 1668, our Imports exceeded our  
“ Exports 2,132,864 *l.* 18 *s.* Now he is very  
“ likely to be a good Witneſs of theſe Facts,  
“ becauſe he is Inſpector-General; but then  
“ he goes on to ſay, that in thoſe Years no  
“ Man in his right Senſes will deny that we  
“ carried on a profitable Traffick. This is  
“ his Opinion. But I muſt affirm, that ſuch  
“ a profitable Traffick for many Years to-  
“ gether, muſt have been the Ruin of this  
“ Nation.

“ The Witneſs you have called was not  
“ Dr. *Davenant* the Inſpector-General, but  
“ the Manuſcript cited in his Report; and  
“ has the *Mercator* any where deſtroyed the  
“ Validity of that Manuſcript? Yet as long  
“ as that ſhall be right, the Report of the  
“ Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms muſt be  
“ wrong.

“ But



“ But for the OLD SCHEME’s being  
 “ made or used to defame the Government,  
 “ what Witness has the Dr. for any such  
 “ thing? By what Argument has he proved  
 “ the *French Trade* to be beneficial to this  
 “ Nation? As for the Valuation of Wines  
 “ at 36 *l.* or Brandies at 45 *l. per Tun*, it is  
 “ not the Valuation of the SCHEME. But  
 “ he or the *Mercator* are desired to produce  
 “ the Authority or Invoices of Merchants  
 “ for the Valuation of 8 or 9 *l. per Tun*.  
 “ And lastly, as for the Coinage in the Mint,  
 “ we might very well lose a Million yearly by  
 “ our Trade to *France*, and yet regain not  
 “ only that Sum, but also enough to supply  
 “ our Mint, from *Spain* and other Countries:  
 “ but this does by no means prove that the  
 “ *French Trade* was beneficial, that the OLD  
 “ SCHEME was false, or the Doctor’s  
 “ Manuscript to be wrong, or the Report of  
 “ the Commissioners to be right, I am,

S I R,

YOURS.

*An Edict of the French King’s concerning Bays  
and Perpetuanas.*

*Some Observations concerning that Edict.*

A N Arret or Edict of his most Christian  
 Majesty’s Council, taken from a Book  
 lately publish’d in *English*, entituled, *The  
 French Book of Rates*, pag. 403. with some  
 Observations of my own upon that Arret.

*Arret*

*Arret of the King's Council, ordaining that the  
Stuffs called Bays, Perpetuanas, &c. of the  
Manufacture which are sent to Italy, shall pay  
but 30 Sols per 100 Weight.*

October 23. 1703.

“ THE King having by Arret of Coun-  
“ cil of the 14th of July last, for the  
“ Reasons there explained, regulated the Du-  
“ ties upon the Exportation of Stuffs called  
“ Bays, Perpetuanas, &c. which are sent in-  
“ to Italy any way whatsoever, at 10 Sols per  
“ 100; and his Majesty being informed that  
“ there is a very considerable Quantity of the  
“ said Goods consumed in Italy of the Manu-  
“ facture of England, and that it will be very  
“ advantageous to the Manufactures of the  
“ Kingdom to fix the Duties of Exportation,  
“ so as that the Merchants may be able to furnish  
“ Italy with the said Stuffs at the same Price as  
“ the Manufacturers of England do; WHICH  
“ HIS MAJESTY BEING WILLING  
“ TO GRANT, and to encourage A  
“ TRADE WHICH IS SO ADVANTA-  
“ GEIOUS TO HIS SUBJECTS; has  
“ therefore ORDAINED, and does hereby  
“ ORDAIN, That the said Stuffs called Bays,  
“ Perpetuanas, &c. of the Manufactures of  
“ this Kingdom, which are sent into Italy by  
“ any way whatsoever, shall pay but 30 Sols  
“ per 100 Weight, instead of all the Duties  
“ which they used to pay; and the said Stuffs  
“ shall be exempted and discharged from pay-  
“ ing the Duties of the Custom-House of Lyons,

*Arret en-  
couraging  
the French  
to undersell  
our Manu-  
factures in  
Italy.*

“ and

“ and the Duties of the *Custom-house* of *Valence*, and the Customs of *Bayonne*, and  
 “ from all other Duties, as *Octrois*, *Peages*,  
 “ and *Passages*, which were levied to his Ma-  
 “ jesty’s Use, or the Use of particular Lords,  
 “ Cities, and Communities, as well for their  
 “ Importation and Passage, as for their Ex-  
 “ portation out of the Provinces of the King-  
 “ dom by or Water, without Prejudice never-  
 “ theless to the *Transire* granted upon the  
 “ Merchandizes sold in the Fairs of *Lyons*,  
 “ *Bordeaux*, and *Troyes*; his Majesty forbid-  
 “ ding the Farmer to levy any higher Duties  
 “ upon the said Stuffs, upon Pain of restoring  
 “ double, and all Charges, Damages, and In-  
 “ terests.

*Done at Fountainbleau, Oct. 23. 1703.*

*Signed,*

PHILIPPEAUX.

The *Mercator* has been so eloquent upon the  
 Dogs-hair, Broad Cloth, the Unshorn Dozens,  
 the Cabbage-Net Bays, and other sorry Wool-  
 len Manufactures of the *French Nation*,  
 that I was almost tempted to believe there  
 were no Sheep in *France*, or that their Sheep  
 did not bear Fleeces, or that the People did not  
 know how to work upon the Wool; so that,  
 let the Duties be ever so high in the Country,  
 yet they would be obliged to buy our Woollen  
 Manufactures. But of all things in the World  
 I should not have suspected that they would pre-  
 tend

tend to vie with us in other Markets, that they could have the least hopes of carrying their *Bays* or *Perpetuanas* with any Success into *Italy*, or that any of them could be sold there in the presence of the *English* Manufactures.

I was perfectly amaz'd when I came to read over the above *Edict* of his most Christian Majesty. What! the Merchants of *France* represent to their Prince, that they should be able to sell *Bays* and *Perpetuanas* in *Italy* at as low a Price as the *English* Manufacturers? And this too without taking off the whole Duties of Exportation? nay, tho' 30 Sols per 100 Weight should be still left upon these exported Manufactures?

*The French sell as cheap in Italy as we, tho' a Duty on Exportation.*

All the Duties of Exportation upon our Woollen Goods were taken off long before this *Edict*, and yet are we not able to sell our *Bays* and *Perpetuanas*, tho' all the Duties are taken off, cheaper than the *French* Merchants, tho' a Duty of 30 Sols per 100 Weight is still left upon them. This was all the *French* Merchants desired to enable them to cope with *England* in the *Italian* Markets, and the Prince has granted what was desired by his Subjects.

If their *Bays* and *Perpetuanas* are as cheap with a Duty of 30 Sols per 100 Weight, as ours without any Duty at all, what if his most Christian Majesty should remit even these 30 Sols? Why then we shall not be able to export either *Bays* or *Perpetuanas* to the same Market, without giving a Bounty at Exportation, as we do in the Case of Corn.

The King acknowledges, that the Trade of sending their own *Bays* and *Perpetuanas* to *Italy*, even when this Edict was made, was already advantageous to his Subjects. What then must we think was the Consequence of this Edict, and the discharging all those burdensome *Ocтроis*, *Peages*, and *Passages*, besides the Port Duties, and reducing the whole to 30 Sols *per* 100 Weight, not above one 80th Part of their whole Value? There is no doubt but their Exportations to *Italy*, if they were before so very advantageous to the *French* Nation, must needs be very much increased.

It is in vain for the *Mercator* to talk as he often does, of the Quality of our *English* Manufactures, and their being so very preferable to those of *France*: If the latter can be sold as cheap, it is plain that the Quality, as well as Quantity, is considered by the Buyer.

He often calls the Woollen Manufacture our Manufacture, our own Manufacture, the *English* Manufacture, as if Wool was not the Growth of any other Country, or as if the People of other Countries did not know how to work it up: And in a late Treatise, has insisted very largely upon the inimitable Spinners of *England*. This Edict is a full Confutation of these fine Doctrines; they have Wool in *France*, they have Spinners in *France*; so that besides supplying their own Country, they are able to vie with us in Foreign Markets.

Another thing is remarkable, which is, that this Edict of 1703, is particularly levelled against *England*. It was made on purpose, that the *French* might be able to sell their Woollen

Manu-



Manufactures as cheap as the *English* can sell theirs in *Italy*: And if they can sell as cheap in *Italy*, will they not be able to sell as cheap in every other Country? If *France* is able to sell their Woollen Manufactures as cheap as we to Foreign Countries, can we hope to sell any of ours to *France*, under the extravagant Duties of the Tariff of 1699, which are to be the Duties by our late Treaty? If *France* had granted us the Tariff of 1664, for our Woollen Manufactures, which are exorbitant enough; nay, if she had granted us the Liberty of importing our Woollen Manufactures free of all manner of Duties, yet we could not send any to that Country. Their making these Manufactures so very cheap, that even with a Duty of Exportation they can be sold at the same Market with ours, is a Demonstration that they can make them cheaper for the Use of their own People, and that we are not able to send an Ounce of manufactured Wool to *France*.

The *Mercator's* Objection here will be, That we have formerly sent considerable Quantities into *France*, under higher Duties than those of the Tariff of 1664, as appears by the Exports of 1685, which have been printed.

All this is very true, but all this is no Argument that we shall be able to do the same thing now. Their Woollen Manufacture was then but in its Infancy, they have been labouring at it ever since, and 30 Years may well be thought a sufficient time to advance into very great Perfection. And his most Christian Majesty has contributed very much to this Perfection,

tion, by prohibiting or loading with high Duties, all Foreign Manufactures, and even by lessening the Duties upon those of his own Subjects, as appears by the Edict which I have just now recited. Such Encouragements from the Prince, and so great a Length of Time, cannot chuse but be sufficient to make them Artists; and they have all necessary Materials for the Manufacture of the Growth of their own Country, or from the Dominions of King *Philip*, the Grandson of his most Christian Majesty.

We bought heretofore our Woollen Cloths from the *Flemings*; Time and Application have brought us since to as great Perfection in this Manufacture as any People in the World. And should we buy any Woollen Cloths from *Flanders* now, if we were to admit them clear of Duties? There is as little Reason to believe that we can sell either *Bays* or *Perpetuanas* to the *French* Nation. But the Edict of 1703, is a Demonstration that they are able to vie with us at other Markets, and are therefore certainly able to undersell us at their own.

*The Interest of Merchants ought not to be considered in Treaties of Commerce so much as that of the Landholders and Manufactures.*

*Merchants may enrich themselves by impoverishing their Country.*

*We are not enabled to export any Fish to France by our late Treaty.*

THO' in opposition to the *Mercator* I set out with the Title of *British Merchant*, yet the Interest of the Merchants is the thing that I have least of all considered in my Reflections upon the late Treaty of Commerce, or upon the Bill for rendring that Treaty effectual.

The Merchant may have a distinct Interest from that of his Country, he may thrive by a Trade which shall prove her Ruin; for example, Suppose a hundred *French* Merchants were to export annually the Value of a Million Sterling in Bullion for *French* Wines, Brandy, Linens, Silk, Paper, and other Manufactures of that Nation, all for the Consumption of this Kingdom; or, which is the same thing, suppose they should pay for such a Value of Goods by Bills of Exchange, by which the Receipt of so great a Balance from other Countries would be prevented; it cannot be deny'd that such a Trade as this would be very ruinous, that it must *exhaust our Treasures, and lessen the Value of our native Commodities and Manufactures*. And yet even by such a Trade the Merchants themselves may grow very rich, they may sell the Manufactures

*The Gain of the Merchant, and Gain of the Nation consider'd.*

tures they import for a hundred thousand Pounds more than they cost, they may share this hundred thousand Pounds among themselves : but from whom do they gain this Sum? Not from *France*, but from their own Countrymen, who buy their Goods ; let their Gain be what it will, yet still, by this Supposition, *Britain* loses a Million yearly to the *French* Nation, and their Manufactures of so great a Value are imported here, and sold at the same Markets with our own ; which cannot chuse but diminish to the like Value the Product of our own Lands, and the Manufactures of our own People. For this Reason I have never had the least regard to the Interest of the Merchants, unless that Interest of theirs shall be also consistent with the Interest of the Kingdom.

*The Merchants Gain when the Nation loses, is from the Landholders and Labourers,*

The Case will be the same in a greater or less degree, as the Quantities of Bullion exported, or the Sums remitted abroad, are greater or less, and as the Manufactures imported for our own Consumption are more or less. The Nation in every such Case, loses all the Ballance that is paid abroad. The Merchants who export the Bullion, or remit the Money, may perhaps gain the tenth part of that Sum ; but they do not gain it from the Country with which they trade in this manner. Their whole Gain is shuffled to them out of the Pockets of their own Countrymen, from the Landholders and the Labourers ; and these in the mean while lose perhaps ten times as great a Value of their Product and Manufactures, by the Payment of so great a Ballance to a foreign Nation.

Our

Our Legislators therefore have had the Wisdom in every Age to guard the Nation from this detrimental Gain of the Merchants. The many Prohibitions, and high Duties laid upon *East-India* Manufactures, are so many Evidences of this Matter. There can be no doubt but our Merchants have gain'd incredible Sums heretofore for themselves, by sending out our Bullion to the *East-Indies*, and by returning such Manufactures thence as were thought to interfere with those of our own Nation. But the particular Gain of those Merchants was no Invitation to our Legislators to let them go on, and therefore from time to time they made Laws to lessen the Consumption of *East-India* Manufactures in this Kingdom; some they totally prohibited, others they charg'd with such Duties as rendered them very little cheaper than those of our own People: so that now our *East-India* Company must derive almost their whole Gain from Manufactures which are re-exported, and consum'd by foreign Nations; very little is gotten by the Consumption of any of them in our own.

Gain by  
East-India  
Trade chiefly  
by Re-exportation.

And yet I very much question whether it ever could be objected against the Trade to the *East-Indies*, as has very justly been against that of France, that it exhausted our Treasure, or lessened the Value of the native Commodities and Manufactures of this Kingdom. As for our Treasure, it is notorious that we always re-exported as many *East-India* Manufactures as equall'd the whole Cost of our Importations, by which means we were re-paid the Sums we sent abroad; so that our Treasure could not be said to be exhausted by this Trade. And then as to



the lessening the Value of our own Commodities and Manufactures, the Silks and Linens wrought in *England*, were formerly but inconsiderable ; they are risen up of late Years to be mighty Manufactures ; they are wore chiefly since the Prohibitions upon those of *France* and the *East-Indies*.

*No Re-exportations of French Goods,*

But the Case of the *French* Trade was very different : The Wines, Brandies, Silks, Linens, Paper, innumerable other Goods imported from that Nation, where all consum'd by our own People. I would desire the *Mercator* to shew me that any of these Goods were ever re-exported to other Nations. If he is not able to do this, it will follow, that if our Merchants paid *France* a Ballance, so much of our Treasure was exhausted ; they might perhaps gain Estates to themselves, but it was by carrying on a Trade that was detrimental to their Country. The Estates they gain'd, they gain'd from their own Countrymen, the Nation paid very-dear for the Acquisitions of those Merchants, and perhaps ten times as much as the whole Value of their Acquisitions.

*Reasons for Prohibitions and high Duties,*

Again, as to the lessening the Value of our native Commodities and Manufactures, I have already observed that none of the Goods imported from *France*, ever us'd to be re-exported, they were all consum'd by our own People ; and then must not this take off from the Value of our own at the same Market ? Wou'd it be possible to import great Quantities of Wine from *France*, without lessening in proportion the Consumption of our own Malt, or at least of the Wines we buy from *Italy* and *Portugal*

*Portugal* for our Manufactures, which otherwise we should not send in such Quantities to those Countries? and then must not these *French* Wines, if they are no otherwise to be purchased than with our Mony, lessen the Value of our native Commodities and Manufactures? And must not the same thing be said of Brandy, Linen, Silk and Paper, if any considerable Quantities of them should be imported? Should we consume as much of our own Spirits as we did before, and yet increase our Consumption of *French* Brandies? Should we make still as many Silks, as much Linen and Paper, and yet at the same time increase our Importation of these things from *France*? And if we are to purchase all these things with our Mony, and not with equivalent Manufactures, is it possible that the value of our own native Commodities and Manufactures should not be lessened with their Consumption? And yet perhaps the Merchant who imports these Goods may grow rich; he may get a great Estate for himself by lessening the Value of the Product of our Lands, and when he has done, he may purchase so many more Farms for his Mony: he may drive our People from their Manufactures, and when he has done, he may hire them to be his Servants at less Wages. Whatsoever therefore was the Gain of our Merchants, our Legislators in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second did not think this a sufficient Argument for the Continuance of the *French* Trade; they thought the Merchants Gain was vastly over-ballanc'd by the Loss of the Nation's Treasure, and by the Impoverishment of our Land-holders and

our Labourers ; and for this reason they prohibited the whole Trade for *exhausting our Treasure, and lessening the value of our native Commodities and Manufactures.*

*The Gain  
of the Nati-  
on prefera-  
ble to that of  
the Mer-  
chant.*

The *Mercator* in one of his late Papers appeals to the Merchants upon the Exchange, whether they are losers by the *Spanish* Trade. But what is all this to his purpose ? If they have made great Gain for themselves, is this any manner of proof that the Kingdom has been also a Gainer ? Does it prove that we sell more Manufactures to *Spain*, than *Spain* does to us ; or that we receive a Ballance in Mony from that Country ? If this is not the Case, our *Spanish* Merchants may grow rich by selling the Treasure of their native Country ; but poor *England* in the mean time must pay very dear for their Riches. The same thing may be said of our Merchants, that traded formerly to *France* ; but I cannot have the least Suspicion that our present Legislators will not follow the Steps of their wise Predecessors, and consider not so much the Interest of the Merchant, as that of the Land-holders and the Labourers, and indeed of the whole Nation. Without doubt they will take sufficient Care that it shall not be in the Power of *France* to gain a Ballance from this Kingdom, that it shall not be hereafter in her Power to sell us more Manufactures than she takes from us ; but they will never be able to prevent her doing this, if the eighth and ninth Articles of the late Treaty should be made effectual.

By passing a Law for this purpose *France* would be as much favoured here, as every other Nation

Nation the most favoured. And should we not then from so near a Country, and where the People are obliged by very Poverty to work cheaper than they do in other places, import much greater Quantities of Wines, and Linens, and Silks, and Paper, than we either produce our selves, or import from *Italy, Portugal* or *Germany*, in exchange for our Manufactures? And would not there be an end in this case of so many of our own Manufactures, which we either make for our own Use, or to exchange with those Countries? Certainly so much of the Value of our own Product and Manufactures must be lost, unless it shall be affirmed, that we shall sell as many to *France*, as we made for our selves and those other Countries.

But this the *Mercator* says, we shall be able to do by the help of the late Treaty, (when it shall be made effectual) and upon the Tariff of 1664, which, says he, is fully restor'd to us by that Treaty. The Tariff of 1664 is often brought to our remembrance, as if we were now to be under no other Duties or Prohibitions than during the time of that Tariff. But God knows, by the late Treaty we are to have very little, or almost nothing of that Tariff.

In the first place, that Tariff is not granted to the foreign Goods re-exported from this Kingdom, as I have shewn at large before. These were heretofore one half of our whole Exports; but the *French King* may now prohibit them, or charge them with high Duties, notwithstanding and without any Violation of the late Treaty. In

In the next place, at least one half of all the other Goods we usually sent to *France*, were our Woollen Manufactures, as I have expressly shewn: These are put under the hard Tariff of 1699, and under such other Restrictions, as shew plainly the King's Resolution that we shall send none of these Manufactures to his Dominions; and yet the *French* are so improved in these Manufactures of late Years, that if we were to have the Tariff of 1664, or to pay no Duties in that Country, yet we could send none to *France*.

Thus in these two Articles, of foreign Goods, and Woollen Manufactures, we not only not have the Tariff of 1664, but every thing else is excepted from the general Rule of that Tariff, of which we might hope to export any considerable Quantity. To leave other Articles to another time, I shall instance at present in that of Fish.

*The Im-  
portation of  
Fish to  
France ob-  
structed.*

Fish is one of the Species of excepted Goods, which by the subsequent Articles, as well as Woollen Manufactures, is put under very heavy Duties, and with such Restrictions, as besides the heavy Duties, shew that *France* is fully determined that none at all shall be imported from this Country.

*Articles  
proposed by  
the Board of  
Trade for  
our Fish.*

The Council of Trade here proposed Additional Articles to be added to a Project of a Treaty of Commerce with *France*, as follows:

“THE most Christian King does farther  
“ promise, That from henceforth all  
“ Cod, Ling, or Haick or salted Herrings,  
“ Salmon,



“ Salmon, and and all Fish whatsoever dry or  
“ wet, may be freely imported from the Do-  
“ minions, and by the Subjects of *Great Bri-*  
“ *tain* in *British* Ships, into the Territories of  
“ *France*, without being liable to re-packing,  
“ notwithstanding any Edicts, Arrets, or Or-  
“ ders to the contrary ; and that you shall not  
“ be oblig’d to pay any higher Duties than  
“ what were established by the Tariff of  
“ 1664, and also that the said *British* Sub-  
“ jects shall have Liberty to sell the Fish by  
“ them so imported to whatever Buyer they  
“ please.

“ The most Christian King does likewise  
“ promise, That from henceforth the *British*  
“ Merchants shall have the like Allowance up-  
“ on Tare on Cask and Packing of Goods in  
“ *France*, as is allow’d to *French* Merchants  
“ in *Great Britain*.”

These Articles his most Christian Majesty  
rejected, instead of which he has given us an  
Exception for our Fish in the Body of the Trea-  
ty ; and in the Articles sign’d a Month after-  
wards, he is pleased to grant us Liberty to im-  
port Fish into his Countries, but under such  
Duties, and with such Limitations and Re-  
strictions, as plainly shew that he wants none  
at all from us, and that he knows very well  
what use to make of *Cape Briton*, which has  
been granted him by a late Treaty.

Among the many false Arguments made use  
of to reconcile the People to the Treaty of  
Commerce, in my Opinion the most barefaced  
of all is, that all Prohibitions laid in *France*,  
since the Year 1664, upon Goods and Mer-  
chandizes

chandizes exported from *Great Britain* are taken off, that all high Duties there upon our Goods, are reduced to the easy Tariff of the above-mentioned Year, and that we shall of Consequence make prodigious Exports to that Kingdom.

The Treaty of Commerce is so far from granting us this general Repeal of Prohibitions and high Duties, that all Foreign Goods stand charged still as they did before, and may be yet farther charged at the Discretion of his most Christian Majesty, without any Violation of the late Treaty; and Foreign Goods were a very great Part of our whole Exports to that Kingdom:

*The appointing Commissioners an Imposition, and a Ridicule.*

The Treaty of Commerce has not granted us the Tariff of 1664, (tho' a very exorbitant one) for our Woollen Manufactures. This, tho' the staple Commodity of this Nation, is expressly excepted from the general Rule of that Tariff. Indeed, by the Treaty Commissioners are to be appointed on both sides, to consider of the Terms upon which Woollen Manufactures, Fish, and other excepted Goods shall be admitted. But till the Commissioners appointed by his most Christian Majesty shall have his Leave to agree upon any such Terms, the Exception is absolute, and he may load these Goods with as high Duties as he thinks fit, without any Violation of the Treaty.

It is true, his most Christian Majesty by subsequent Articles dated a Month after, and consequently no Part of that Treaty, has given us a Permission to import three Sorts of Woollen Manufactures into his Dominions, (which I  
take

take it does comprehend almost every one) but under such extravagant Duties, at such Ports only, and under such Restrictions, as plainly demonstrate his Intention that we shall send none of them into *France*. The Truth of it is, the very Form of the Permission granted us in these subsequent Articles, looks rather like a Ridicule upon the *British* Nation, than a Permission to introduce our Woollen Manufactures into his Countries. Our Woollen Manufactures were usually heretofore one third Part of our whole Exports to *France*; but we have not the least Hopes of sending any now under the Articles subsequent to the late Treaty. This Article, and that of Foreign Goods, were heretofore above three fourths of our whole Exports; we have not the Tariff of 1664, for these Goods, we should export but very few of them, even tho' we had that Tariff, but without it we have not the least Hopes of exporting any.

Of the remaining Goods which we exported heretofore under the Tariff of 1664, the Fish from *England*, but especially from *Scotland*, was a very considerable Part. But this too as well as our Woollen Manufactures, is excepted in the Body of the late Treaty, from the general Rule of paying according to that Tariff, and is reserved for the Commissioners to be appointed on both sides, to consider upon what Terms they shall be imported into *France*. This is the prettiest Contrivance in the World to exclude the Importation of these excepted Goods, without giving any Colour of Complaint to the *British* Nation. For can we have

*Fish and  
Woollen  
Goods ex-  
cepted by the  
Treaty, and  
granted by  
subsequent  
Articles.*

have the least Reason to be offended with his most Christian Majesty, if the Commissioners appointed on his Part should refuse to admit these Goods upon any Terms or Conditions whatsoever? For my own part, I should not think they very much consulted the Interest of their Master or his Subjects, if they should admit any of them, without the Offer of some new Equivalent on our Part, besides the Advantages already secured to them by this Treaty. I believe therefore that no Man in his right Senses, can think that Commissioners will be appointed by *France* for any other Purpose, than as a Shooing-Horn to draw on the Bill of Commerce, to amuse the Nation, and grant us nothing. So that we have absolutely granted *France* what she wants by this Treaty, in lieu of which she has condescended to grant us the Liberty of importing the excepted Species of Goods and Merchandizes, when the Commissioners appointed by her shall agree with the Commissioners appointed on the Part of *Great Britain* upon the Conditions. Upon the whole matter, notwithstanding the Clause of Commissioners for adjusting the Differences between the two Nations, the Goods excepted by the Body of the Treaty were absolutely excepted, and *France* was at full Liberty to load every one of them with as high Duties as she pleased, without any Violation of the Treaty.

*Subsequent  
Articles or  
Prohibitions.*

But in the subsequent Articles dated a Month after, she has condescended to explain her Meaning concerning the Article of Fish, as much to our Advantage as she has done that of the Woollen Manufactures; that is, that we shall

shall import the one no more than the other into that Country. For indeed the subsequent Articles in every Case of the excepted Goods, instead of an Allowance, are in effect a downright Prohibition of those Goods.

This will be apparent in the Case of Fish, <sup>Duties on Fish.</sup> by a Comparison of the Liberty we had to import that Commodity into *France* under the Tariff of 1664, with the Duties and Restrictions laid upon it by the Articles made and executed after the late Treaty.

By the Tariff of 1664, the Case of Fish imported into *France* stood thus :

	<i>Liv. Sols.</i>
Herrings <i>per</i> Last of 12 Barrels paid	15 00
Ditto white <i>per</i> Last of 12 Barrels paid	16 00
Salmon <i>per</i> Last of 12 Barrels, paid	6 00
Codfish dry <i>per</i> M.	8 10
Ditto green <i>per</i> M.	3 00

But the third of these subsequent Articles is in the following Words, *viz.* “ Salt Fish in “ Barrels only is to be imported into the Kingdom, Countries, and Territories under the “ Dominion of the King ; and at all Places of “ Entrance into the Kingdom, Countries, and “ Territories under the Dominion of the “ King, even at all free Ports, the Duties of “ Landing and Consumption shall be paid, “ which were appointed before the Tariff of “ 1664 ; and besides 40 Livres *per* Last, consisting of 12 Barrels, weighing each 300 l. “ for the Duty of Entry ; which Entry shall “ not be permitted, but by *St. Valery* upon “ the *Somme, Rouen, Nantz, Libourne,* and “ *Bour-*



“ *Bourdeaux*, and shall remain prohibited at  
 “ all other Harbours or Ports, as well in the  
 “ Ocean as in the Mediterranean.”

Can any Man read this Article, without some sort of Indignation? Has his most Christian Majesty granted this *to facilitate* our Importation of Fish into all Places in his Dominions? Is not the whole Article a Demonstration of that Prince's Resolution, that his Subjects shall eat no Fish, but of their own catching and curing?

First for the Duties; 15 or 16 Livres upon the Last of Herrings, by the Tariff of 1664, that was almost 2*s.* for every Barrel. Herrings would be valued high enough at 15 *s.* *per* Barrel; and then the Duty, even by that Tariff, was about 14 *per Cent.* of the whole Value. And can Fish, of which almost the whole Cost is paid to the Labour of the People, bear a higher Duty? and yet, as if this was not sufficient, forty Livres are laid on the Last of 12 Barrels by the above-mentioned Article; that is, 5*s.* to every Barrel. And are Herrings so appropriated to this Island, or so wanted in *France*, as to be able to bear both this Last, as also the Duties, whatsoever they are (doubtless high enough) of *Landing and Consumption*? which is about 35 *per Cent.*

Can Salmon, of which we did not export very great Quantities before, under the old Duty of 6 Livres *per* Last, bear a Load of 40 Livres, which is laid upon it by the abovementioned Article?

Cape Bre-  
ton.

But the most extravagant Part of the Story, and which shews that *France* understands perfectly

fectly well what is given up to them in *Cape Breton*, is still behind. And that is that Cod-fish, which were formerly imported into that Country by Tale, and paid from three Livres to eight Livres ten Sols *per M.* must be hereafter imported in Barrels, or not at all, and pay 40 Livres *per Last*, that is 5 s. *per Barrel*, a Duty equal to almost the whole Value of that Fish. And then, as for the Expence of Cask, which is imposed upon us, while their *Newfoundland* Fishermen may import their own in Bulk, and save this Expence, it is equal to almost half the Value of the whole Commodity. If his Majesty had made it high Treason for any *Breton* to import Cod-fish into his Countries, he could hardly keep them out more effectually than he will be able to do by this Article. *O Cape Breton! Cape Breton!*

And yet, as if all this were not sufficient, our Importation of salted Fish is confin'd to five Ports only, and these all in the Ocean, without any Port in the Mediterranean. But yet there may be some such Fools as will believe that this was done, as in the Case of our Woollen Manufactures, *to facilitate our Commerce!* And for the very same Reason, no doubt, the Judicious Proposal of our Council of Trade (recited before) was rejected by *France*, and this wonderful kind Article given us in its stead.

I believe I have here effectually answered the *Mercator's* pretended *Scotch* Letters of the great Disappointment to that Nation, by the rejecting the Bill of Commerce, and depriving them of the Means of exporting their salted Fish

Fish to *France*. I have effectually proved that the Bill of Commerce, if this Article is a part of it, is a Prohibition of that Commodity.

I desire now the *Mercator* will inform his Readers of what sort of Goods we shall be able to send any considerable Quantities to *France*, since the Tariff of 1664 is not granted to Goods imported here from foreign Countries, nor to our Fish, nor Woollen Manufactures; since all these are either prohibited there, or admitted only with such Duties, and under such Restrictions and Limitations as amount to Prohibitions. If this is the Case of all the above-mentioned Goods, I desire the *Mercator* will tell us “ of what sorts of Merchandizes we “ shall be able to export any greater Quanti- “ ties than we do already without the Bill of “ Commerce; that he will tell us, if he can, “ what Sorts of Goods are to amount to 6 or “ 700,000 *l.* which he says would be the Va- “ lue of our Exports, if the Treaty of Com- “ merce were made effectual.

One thing I think I ought not to pass without Notice, which is, “ that his Majesty has “ in a manner disfranchiz’d his very free Ports “ in the Ocean, by this Article, on purpose “ to exclude our Fish; since even at the very “ free Ports, the Duties of Landing and Con- “ sumption must be paid, as well as the exor- “ bitant Duty of 40 Livres *per* Last. But e- “ ven with all those Duties, he has not thought “ fit to allow us any Port in the *Mediterra- “ nean.*”

*Our Legislators are good Witnesses of the Facts mention'd in the Preamble of the Prohibition Act, 30 Car. II. and no Custom-house Account, which can be now produc'd, is sufficient to overthrow their Evidence.*

*The Petition of the People of Lyme-Regis : What Allegations in it good, and what not.*

**I** Have ever considered the Authority of Persons as the lowest kind of Proof, and such as ought never to be credited against Demonstration or Probability. I believe Persons to be very proper Witnesses of Facts ; and when I have no Reason to suspect their Fidelity, or Capacity, or that they have been imposed on or mistaken, I am ready to give Credit to their Evidence.

It is for this Reason, that I have cited the Preamble to the Prohibition Act, 30 Car. II. The Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled, in the Reign of King *Charles II.* had better Opportunities of knowing, than we can possibly have at this time of Day, the State of the *French Trade*, as it was then carried on ; no *Custom-house Books* could be denied to them. They had a Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records. They had a Power to send for the Records of the *Custom-house*, before the Court could give any Directions, or the Officers of the Customs could have time to falsify any of their Entries. And therefore, since the Legislative Power then asserted, That *the importing of French Wines, Brandy, Linen, Silks and Paper, and other Commodities of the Growth,*  
*Pro-*

*Product, or Manufactures of France, did exhaust our Treasure, and lessen the Value of our native Commodities and Manufactures; I am forced to believe, that vast Quantities of those Goods were imported, and such as very much overballanced our Exports to that Kingdom. The Lords and Commons had, no doubt, sufficient Knowledge of the Fact; and if the Fact was true, I do not want their Assistance to reason from it; I am my self able to determine, that our Importations from France exhausted the Treasure, and lessened the Value of the Native Commodities, and Manufactures of this Kingdom.*

The *Mercator* affirms, that the Ballance of our Trade to *France* was always on the *English* side, that our Exports to that Nation always exceeded their Imports hither. If so, why was not such a Ballance made out to that Parliament? It is well known, that the Court, and the Ministers were not at all pleased with the Prohibition, they did all they could to oppose it. Certainly, if they had been able to shew, that the Ballance was on our side, the Lords and Commons would have desisted from desiring a Prohibition of a Trade which was beneficial to the Kingdom.

He has not in all his Papers, produced the *Custom-House* Accounts of any one whole Year, to shew, that the Ballance of the *French* Trade was on our side; tho' this he promised with all the Confidence in the World, at his first setting out: And if he had made good his Promise, it had been worth all his other Arguments; and indeed, without this, his other Arguments are

good



good for nothing. Our Legislators, therefore, in the Reign of King *Charles II.* were good Witnesses, that we were over-ballanced by the *French Trade* ; and so much the better, because neither this Man nor those that employ him, have yet produced any Evidence to the contrary.

And yet, if any such Evidence could be now produced, if any Account from the *Custom-House* could be offer'd contrary to this Assertion of our Legislators, it would not deserve the least Credit. For I must here repeat my Questions, If there had been any such Account at the time of making that Prohibition, why was it not produced before those Legislators, in order to prevent it ? Were the Court, and the Ministers at that time, so very fond of the Prohibition ? Is it not notorious, that they did all they could to oppose it ? And if they could have opposed it by plain Evidence of the Fact, would not that Evidence have been then produced ? So that, if any *Custom-House* Account should be offered now, contrary to that Assertion of our Legislators, it would be a very violent Presumption, that such an Account has been forged since, and that it was not then in being, when that Prohibition was made.

I am far from suspecting, that any such Forgery would be attempted in the present Age, that any such Orders would be given by the present Court, or obeyed by the present Officers of the *Customs*. But presently after the passing of that Prohibition, might not the Court, that was then against it, use their utmost Endeavours to falsify the *Custom-House* Accounts.

*The Ministers opposed the Prohibition Act, but cou'd produce no Account against it.*

Accounts, by which it was supported? For example, if the Exports and Imports, between *Michaelmas* 1668 and *Michaelmas* 1669, and the great Over-balance against us in that Year, was the chief Argument made use of for passing that Prohibition, might not the Court then give Orders to the Commissioners of the *Customs*, to take away the old Entries, and to substitute others in their room; making the several Quantities of exported Goods much greater, and those of Goods imported much less than were really made in that Year? might they not do this to get rid of that Prohibition, which was so very displeasing to them? And is it likely, that such Orders would not be obeyed at that time by the Officers of the *Customs*? The *Mercator* himself has led me to this Argument, by telling us, that Sir *Nicholas Butler*, of *flagrant Memory*, set a little after at that Board; that in defiance of the Prohibition, the Court gave Orders for entering the Wines imported from *France*, as if imported from other Countries; that the Orders were obeyed, and the false Entries made accordingly. What would not a Court be guilty of, that could do this? What Orders could they give, that such Officers as those would not obey? I do not pretend to affirm, that the thing I have suggested was ever done; because no Account from the *Custom-House* has yet been produced contrary to the Assertion of our Legislators. But if any such Account were now to be trumped up, I should certainly believe, that it was forged for the Reasons I have given; and that our Legislators could not be mistaken in the Facts which they have asserted.

It is for Facts only, that I have cited the Preamble of the Prohibition : Our Legislators could not but know, that a great Over-balance of Manufactures was imported from *France*, and I have cited them as Witnesses of this Fact. They have also reasoned from it very right ; but if they had not done so, every Man in his right Senses, might very justly argue, that a great Over-balance of such Imports, must needs have *exhausted the Treasure, and lessened the Value of the Native Commodities and Manufactures of this Kingdom.*

Again, I have cited the *Inspector-General* of the *Customs*, as a Witness, that there remains in the *Custom-House* a Manuscript of the Imports and Exports between *England* and *France*, from *Michaelmas* 1668 to *Michaelmas* 1669 ; which I have shewn to be utterly inconsistent with an Account transmitted by the Commissioners to the last Parliament. I have cited him too as a Witness, that he was not able to gain any Light into the Transactions of that Year, but from the aforementioned Manuscript. These were undoubtedly Facts within the knowledge of the *Inspector-General*, and I therefore cited him as a Witness. But if the same Gentleman should tell us, that in his Opinion, the old Scheme is false, without alledging one single Fact or Argument, to induce me to be of his Opinion ; or if he should tell us, that we may import annually an Over-balance of Manufactures of two Millions more than we export, and yet be no losers by such a Traffick, I must assure the *Mercator*, I cannot yield to his Authority ; I should not believe such Assertions of

the Inspector-General, tho' they were declared to be true by all the Legislators of Great Britain.

Again, if a Merchant whose Veracity is not at all to be suspected, should tell me that he has gained a hundred Thousand Pounds by trading to *France*, he is the proper Judge of this Fact, and I would believe him. But if he should argue from hence, and therefore this is a profitable Trade to the Kingdom, even tho' it should import upon us the Value of a Million more in Manufactures than it takes from us, by which we should be obliged to pay so great a Ballance; I should not be moved by his Authority, let his particular Gain be ever so great; I should believe the Nation lost a Million by such a Commerce.

Lastly, if a whole Town should represent that they had exported formerly to *France* the Value of fifty Thousand Pounds *per Ann.* in Woollen Manufactures; they may be proper Evidences of this Fact, and I should be ready to give them Credit. But if they should argue hence, that the whole Trade with *France* was beneficial to this Nation, and that the Exports from the whole Kingdom exceeded their Imports, and that we consequently received a great annual Ballance from *France*, I must take leave to disagree with this last part of their Representation, I could not yield to their Authority. I might believe their Evidence as to Facts which are properly within their own knowledge, but how can they be Judges for the whole Nation? Or how can they argue from the particular Gain of their own Town, to the univer-  
sal

sal Gain of all *England*? Upon this Occasion I think my self obliged to present my Readers with a Copy of a Representation of the Mayor, &c. of *Lyme-Regis*, concerning a Prohibition of *British* Commodities from being imported into *France*, which is as follows.

To the Honourable Commissioners of Trade,

*The humble Representation and Petition of the Mayor, Burgeses, and principal Inhabitants of the Town of Lyme-Regis, in the County of Dorset,*

*Humbly sheweth,*

“ **T**HAT the Trade to France with the  
“ *Woollen Manufactures* was an enrich-  
“ *ing Trade* to this Nation, and was the best  
“ *this Part of the Kingdom* had for Employment  
“ *of People, Shipping and Navigation*; there  
“ having been yearly for several Years toge-  
“ ther shipped in this Port for the PRO-  
“ VINCE OF BRITANY in *France* in  
“ *Drapery*, to the value of fifty Thousand  
“ *Pound Sterling* and upwards; and that this  
“ Trade was enjoyed Time out of Mind, and  
“ DRAPERY was imported into the said  
“ PROVINCE CUSTOM-FREE till the  
“ Year 1687, in which Year the Importation of  
“ *all Woollen Manufactures whatsoever* was pro-  
“ hibited; and afterwards several great Duties  
“ were laid on all Goods and Commodities of  
“ the Growth, Product or Manufacture of  
“ this Kingdom, by an Edict, a Copy where-



“ of truly translated from the Original is here-  
 “ unto annexed. And we also crave leave to  
 “ acquaint your Honours, that a Month *before*  
 “ *the said Prohibition took place*, several great  
 “ Quantities of Drapery to the Value of two  
 “ Thousand Pounds and upwards, which had  
 “ been imported into the said Province in two  
 “ Ships from this Place, were *seized and de-*  
 “ *tained* during all the last War, which were  
 “ all *spoiled*. Your Petitioners therefore hum-  
 “ bly pray, that in the ensuing Treaty of  
 “ Peace, Care may be taken to get the said  
 “ Prohibition taken off, and that your Peti-  
 “ tioners may be restored to the said Trade,  
 “ and be at Liberty *to import Drapery*, and  
 “ other Goods and Commodities of the  
 “ Growth and Product of this Kingdom  
 “ Custom-free as formerly ; and that the  
 “ Owners of the said *Drapery so seized and*  
 “ *spoiled*, may have *Satisfaction* made for the  
 “ same. *And your Petitioners shall ever pray,*  
 “ &c.

*Signed by*

John Symen, *Mayor*. Nicholas Nowell,  
 Mat. West, Jonas Whetcomb, and 89  
*others.*

The People of *Lyme* without doubt are very  
 good Witnesses that their DRAPERY till the  
 Year 1687, was imported into the PRO-  
 VINCE OF BRITANY CUSTOM-FREE ;  
 they were certainly able to distinguish between  
 paying Customs, and paying none at all : this

is agreeable to what I have said before, that *Britany* was formerly a free Province, and as no Customs were paid there, so there was the chief Consumption of our Woollen Manufactures. But as *Britany* now, by the Articles subsequent to the late Treaty, can have our Manufactures only by the way of other Provinces, so she must receive them after they have paid the Customs from thirty to fifty *per Cent.* according to the Tariff of 1699, which is to be the Rule by our late Treaty. If we exported to *France* any considerable Quantities of Woollen Manufactures where they paid no Duties at all, it is no Argument that we can export any under a heavy Load of Duties, and especially now the *French* themselves since that time are arrived at such Perfection in their own Woollen Manufactures which pay very easy Duties.

Again, the People of *Lyme* are very good Witnesses that the *French* Prohibitions of our Woollen Manufactures began in the Year 1687 ; this was a Fact that they could not but be well acquainted with by their own feeling. Strange ! that *France* should then prohibit our Woollen Manufactures, so soon after King *James* and his Parliament had obliged her by taking off our afore-mentioned Prohibition ! But this shews, as the Inspector-General has said, that they have all along treated us, as if the Genius of *France* had got a perfect Ascendant over that of *England* !

Again, I believe the People of *Lyme*, when they tell us that their own Goods which were exported to *France* before the *Prohibition* were

*seized and spoiled*, tho' the Prohibition did not take place till after their Importation. This was a Fact which they felt, and had therefore very good Reason to remember. But I ask, Did the *French* seize their Goods by virtue of the Prohibition? That had been first to make it lawful to import those Goods, and then by a Law *ex post facto* to condemn them. There can be no trading with such a Nation.

Again, the People of *Lyme* may perhaps be good Witnesses that they formerly exported yearly to *France* the value of fifty Thousand Pounds in Woollen Manufactures, tho' I am afraid they have at a venture lumped it at so great a Sum; for this would amount to almost the third part of all that ever were exported to *France* in one Year from the whole Kingdom.

But lastly, I can by no means allow the Evidence of the Good People of *Lyme*, when they tell us that *the Trade to France with the Woollen Manufactures, was an enriching Trade to this Nation, and was the best Part of the Kingdom had for Employment of People, Shipping and Navigation*. For do they conclude that the whole Nation was enriched by the *French* Trade, because the single Town of *Lyme* was enriched by exporting to *France* the yearly Value of fifty Thousand Pounds in Woollen Manufactures? Does this prove that the Ballance of the whole *French* Trade was on the *English* side, that our Exports exceeded our Imports from that Country? And as for Shipping and Navigation, one single Ship was sufficient to carry at once that whole Value of Woollen Manufactures:

So that in great Numbers of Ships were employed in the *French Trade*, they must have been employed to import upon us a great Overballance of Wines and other Goods from that Nation, perhaps to the enriching the single Town of *Lyme*, but certainly to the improving the whole Kingdom.

And now as to the Prayer of their Petition, that our Woollen Manufactures may be imported CUSTOM-FREE into the *Province of Britany as formerly*, and that the Owners of the *Drapery* which was heretofore seized and spoiled, may be repaired of that Loss. Alas poor People of *Lyme* ! *Britany* is no longer Custom-free, all the Woollen Manufactures that Province is to take from *Lyme*, she must take under the intolerable Duties of the Tariff of 1669, that is, the Prohibition of them still remains.

*A Letter concerning the Mercator's Over-valuation of our Exports.*

*Part of an Answer to the Mercator's Whimsies about Perpets.*

**I**N stating an Account of Profit or Loss by Trade between two Nations, it is not sufficient to tell us of our Exports only, as the *Mercator* generally does, without saying one word of the Goods imported, that is trying a Cause by hearing the Evidence only of one Side. Neither is it sufficient to give us an exact Account of both Exports and Imports, without giving the Valuation of every Parcel of Goods; for how shall the Reader judge to which a Balance

lance is to be paid in Money, without knowing the Value of the Parcels ?

And yet I am afraid it is not in the Power of any Man alive, whether Gentleman or Merchant, to know the Value of every thing. I believe no Man's Knowledge is so universal ; and therefore in my Account, Vol. I. called several Gentlemen of Experience to my Assistance ; and yet in spite of all this Care, I believe I have been mistaken in some of my Valuations. I am ready to be corrected as often as any such Error shall be discovered : But I shall never submit to any Correction upon the single Authority of the *Mercator*, that Authority is always to be suspected ; it appears plainly that he knows very little or nothing of the Matter, almost all his Valuations will be found to be made at random.

But I believe it will appear at last, that I have been generally so fair as not to undervalue our Exports, or overvalue our imported Goods, to make our Loss by the *French Trade* seem greater than it really was. As I have formerly produced a Letter from *Exeter*, with relation to some of our Woollen Manufactures, the following Letter from *Bristol* testifies the same thing in respect to the Tobacco exported from this Kingdom.

S I R, *Bristol, Dec. 14. 1713.*

Letter from  
Bristol about  
Tobacco,

“ Since we see you are willing to receive  
“ Letters, and insert them in your *British Merchant*, with Intention to inform the  
“ Nation how the *Mercator* endeavours to de-  
“ lude the People ; we thought it our Duty  
“ to



“ to join with the honest trading Part of the  
 “ Kingdom, and true Lovers of their Coun-  
 “ try, to detect that Hireling of *France*, the  
 “ *Mercator*.

“ The Letter from *Exeter* is certainly a  
 “ great Discovery of the ill Designs of that  
 “ Writer, as it is also a Demonstration to all  
 “ the trading Part of *Great Britain*, that you  
 “ have acted with Candor, and that in your  
 “ Account of Exports to *France* in the Year  
 “ 1685-6, you have rather chose to over-va-  
 “ lue our Goods, than leave room for an ho-  
 “ nest Man to object; for 'tis plain what the  
 “ *Exeter* Men say is worth but 30,654 *l.* 12 *s.*  
 “ you have rated in your *British Merchant*, at  
 “ 36,865 *l.* 8 *s.* 8 *d.* But the *Mercator* in  
 “ his Account, No. 63, has rated the same  
 “ Goods in his Valuation at 60,521 *l.* about  
 “ as much again as they are worth.

“ In your Account, you have valued 131,733 *lib.* of Tobacco on Board at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  per Pound; in which you have also very much exceeded the Value. We shall therefore give you the Prizes on Board for re-exported Tobacco for four Years, viz. from 1684 to 1687.

The Price  
 of Tobacco  
 for 4 Years  
 from 1684.

“ In 1684, Tobacco on Board,	
“ with the Duty drawn back	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ per <i>lib.</i>
“ In 1685, Ditto	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
“ In 1686, Ditto	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
“ In 1686, Ditto	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 $\frac{3}{8}$

Note, “ The Advance in the Year 1685,  
 “ continued but for a little time on Tobacco  
 H 5 “ for

“ for Exportation: for in *May* 1685 the Par-  
 “ liament laid on a further Impost of 3 *d.* per  
 “ Pound, which Duty commenced the 24<sup>th</sup>  
 “ of *June* following, which occasioned the en-  
 “ grossing the old Tobacco at a greater Price  
 “ than the former Year; but as soon as any  
 “ Tobacco that paid the additional Duty was  
 “ entered and landed it fell again to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; and  
 “ therefore, there is no Reason to think  
 “ *France* would buy any till the Price came to  
 “ be settled. Here that Writer has also serv-  
 “ ed you as he did in the Woollen Goods of  
 “ *Exeter*; for he has charged the said 131,-  
 “ 783 *lib.* Tobacco at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  per Pound, which  
 “ is about double the Value. Where any  
 “ Person will take such Liberty, the unskilful  
 “ Part of Mankind may be easily misled, till  
 “ the Author comes to be found out, and  
 “ their Judgment better informed; and then  
 “ they will agree with us, that there cannot  
 “ be so wicked an Enemy to his Country in  
 “ the whole Kingdom.

*Your Humble Servants,*

D. P. and J. M.

I think I need make no Reflections upon  
 this Letter; it is as plain that I have not un-  
 dervalued these Goods, as that the *Mercator*  
 has grossly overvalued them. I shall therefore  
 now proceed to another Subject, and that is,  
 his imaginary Disability of *France* to rival us  
 in our Woollen Manufactures. His two last  
 Papers

Papers but one, are taken up in labouring this Point, in the Case of Perpets and Bays. I shall here answer his Whimfies concerning the former.

“ It is evident, *says he*, No. 106, the *Perpetuanas* made in *France* have not been able to sell so cheap as the *English*; or else they are not so good as the *English*; how else comes it to pass, that we have such a Vent for ours, and that every Day at the *Custom-House* we see vast Quantities of *Bays* and *Perpetuanas* enter’d both for *Spain* and *Italy*, whereas the *French* are at the Door? And could they undersell us, they can upon all Occasions pour in their Goods before us, and with much less Expence, the Voyage from *Marseilles* to the Coast of either *Italy* or *Spain* being not above two or three Days Sail.

In answer to this, I must affirm, that the *French King* for 60 Years past has been encouraging the Woollen Manufactures in his Kingdom. And as his People succeeded therein, he increased the Duties on ours that were imported into *France*.

*The Increase of Duties on our Woollen Goods in France.*

In 1654, the Customs on Cloth		
were raised		to 30 <i>Livres</i> .
In 1664,	_____	to 40
In 1667,	_____	to 80
In the first Year on a Serge	to	5
In the second	_____ to	6
In the last	_____ to	12

Under these Discouragements our Exports decreased annually, and their Manufactures exceedingly

exceedingly flourished. Our Trade came down to almost nothing every where, except in *Britany*, where, as I have said, they were always Custom-free, till the Year 1687, and where they had almost no Woollen Manufactures of their own.

Besides, about this time, their *Perpets*, which both *France* and we call Imperial Serges, being brought to very great Perfection, they became our Rivals in that Trade, even in the Foreign Markets; and therefore no doubt, were well enough able without our help to supply those of their own Country, which they were still the more able to do, by excluding us out of *Britany*.

*France sends  
more Perpets  
to Turkey  
than Eng-  
land does.*

But as to Foreign Markets, to begin with our Trade to *Turky*, which has been always very justly a Favourite of this Nation; it is manifest they export vast Quantities of *Perpets* to *Turky* from *France*, in comparison of those from *England*, and such as cannot chuse but disturb the Sale of our Goods in that Market: so that it is plain, we have almost lost the Trade of *Perpets* to that Country.

Our last Fleet, which will be allow'd to export the Bulk of our Goods for one Year to *Turky*, yet exported no more than 400 *Perpets*, which cannot exceed 16 or 18 Bales.

But I have also seen an Account of the *Perpets* exported from *France*, for the Years 1711 and 1712, to the Port of *Smyrna* only, in which the Bales were 400, that is, 200 Bales per Ann.

Will the *Mercator* say now, that they do not rival us in our Trade of *Perpets* to *Turky*?  
That

That we are in no danger in Foreign Markets? May it not be said here in the *Mercator's* own Words, that it is evident, that our *Perpetuanas* are not sold so cheap as the *French*, or else that they are not so good as those of that Country? But we need not light a Candle to the Sun.

*A Letter concerning the Mercator's Personal Evidence of two Kings and a Queen.*

*A Postscript concerning his pretended Draw-back of Duties on French Goods re-exported to our Plantations.*

S I R,

“ **T**HE *Mercator's* first Argument, and  
“ in his first Paper, to prove the *French*  
“ Trade was always beneficial to this Nation,  
“ and that our Exports, by a Medium of any  
“ three Years, have exceeded their Imports,  
“ was his pretended Personal Evidence of two  
“ Kings and a Queen. *No less*, says he, *than*  
“ *the Evidence of two Kings and a Queen!* who  
“ could not chuse, no doubt, but be very  
“ competent Judges of our Profit or Loss by  
“ the Trade between both Nations.

“ The *Custom-House* has been ransacked for  
“ an Account to this Purpose, the Medium  
“ of three Years is not yet found, nor indeed  
“ any one in which our Exports have exceed-  
“ ed. All his other Hopes have failed him;  
“ and therefore in his Yesterday's Paper, he  
“ is come back again to his principal Strength,  
“ the Evidence of two Kings and a Queen. I  
“ would



“ would advise him to make the most of this,  
 “ for I am very confident he will not be able  
 “ to support his Paradox by any other Argu-  
 “ ment; he seems to triumph a little that no  
 “ Answer to it has ever yet been attempted.

“ Tho’ I can by no means desire your Time  
 “ should be spent upon this ridiculous Subject,  
 “ yet I cannot think it reasonable to leave him  
 “ and his Party even this little Argument for  
 “ the *French* Trade, or the Bill of Commerce;  
 “ and therefore to save your Pains, I have re-  
 “ solved to bestow an Hour upon an Answer,  
 “ which you may please to use or let alone at  
 “ your Discretion.

“ The Princes he has thought fit to call to  
 “ bear Witness for the *French* Trade, are the  
 “ late King *William* and Queen *Mary*, and  
 “ the present most Christian King. There  
 “ can be no doubt of the Wisdom of all the  
 “ Three, and we are well assured of the Love  
 “ of the two first to this Nation. But are  
 “ Princes of all others the most competent  
 “ Judges of a Country’s gaining or losing by  
 “ Trade? or are they more likely to know  
 “ than the Officers of their Customs, when  
 “ the Imports are over-ballanced by the Ex-  
 “ ports?

“ But after all, what if these Princes have  
 “ never passed any Judgment in this Matter?  
 “ First, it does not appear that the *French*  
 “ King was ever of Opinion that his own  
 “ Country lost, or that *England* was a Gainer  
 “ by the Commerce of both Nations. Yes,  
 “ says that Author, he has tacitly owned it,  
 “ by raising his Customs, and laying his Pro-

“ hibitions;

“hibitions; and that he could do this for no  
“other Reason, than to put a Check to the  
“Imports of our Goods, that his own Sub-  
“jects might not be impoverished, and *Eng-*  
“*land* enriched at their Expence.

“But this Writer must be told that that  
“Prince might do this for another Reason;  
“he might do it, that the Trade which was  
“before carried on to the Advantage of  
“*France*, and Disadvantage of *England*,  
“might be rendered still more beneficial to  
“*France*, and more ruinous to this Kingdom.  
“To explain this Matter by an Example:  
“Suppose that our Exports to *France* had  
“been of the yearly Value of half a Million,  
“and that the Goods imported thence were  
“three times that yearly Value, it is plain  
“our Trade in that Case had been a losing  
“Trade, and that upon the Ballance we must  
“have paid a Million *Sterling* to that King-  
“dom; indeed you have made it probable  
“that we paid a great deal more. But if his  
“Prohibitions or high Duties had still lessened  
“our Exports, must not the Ballance against  
“us have still increased? must not the Trade  
“have become still more ruinous to this Nati-  
“on, by reason of those Prohibitions? That  
“Prince therefore might still lay on his Prohi-  
“bitions, not to deprive us of a gainful Trade,  
“but to make it still a more losing one to us,  
“and a more beneficial one to his own Peo-  
“ple. So that it cannot be concluded from  
“the Prohibitions and Increase of the Duties  
“in *France*, that the *French* Trade was bene-  
“ficial to us, or ruinous to the *French* Nation.  
“He

“ He supposes the *French* King would not  
 “ be the *Aggressor* in this Case, lest we should  
 “ have retaliated upon him by high Duties  
 “ and Prohibitions upon the *French* Imports;  
 “ so that by grasping at greater, he might  
 “ have lost the present Advantages of that  
 “ Trade.

“ Not to insist here upon the Inspector-  
 “ General’s Answer to this, which you have  
 “ cited upon some other Occasion, that *France*  
 “ has all along treated us, as if the Genius of  
 “ that Nation had got a perfect Ascendant over  
 “ that of England; I must give this Answer  
 “ to the *Mercator*, That that wise Prince has  
 “ generally known how much his Neighbours  
 “ would endure before they would be provok-  
 “ ed to retaliate; and besides, there are Ways  
 “ and Means to keep off this Retaliation. The  
 “ Pensions in the Reign of King *Charles II.*  
 “ are too notorious to be forgotten, they are  
 “ the Subjects of some of the Memoirs and  
 “ Letters of our Ambassadors and Ministers of  
 “ State at that time. It was certainly worth  
 “ the while of the *French* King to have given  
 “ then a hundred Thousand Pounds *per Ann.*  
 “ among the Ministers to hinder a Prohibition  
 “ in *England*, and to save a Trade which per-  
 “ haps was above ten times that value to his  
 “ own Subjects, that is, to himself, since he  
 “ has the absolute Command, and is the Ma-  
 “ ster of every one’s Property. If his most  
 “ Christian Majesty would have thought fit  
 “ to part with a hundred Thousand Pounds  
 “ *per Ann.* for such a Purpose, I believe we  
 “ have formerly had Ministers of State in Eng-  
 “ land,

“ *land*, who would have been ready to sell him  
 “ a very good Penny-worth, and perhaps ten  
 “ times as great a Value from their native  
 “ Country.

“ Without some such Reason as this, it  
 “ will not be easy to account why it was so  
 “ hard to obtain the Prohibiting Act in that  
 “ Reign, and why in 1678 there was no o-  
 “ ther Way to come at it, than by tacking it  
 “ to a Capitation.

*The Prohibition Act  
 pass'd by a  
 Tack.*

“ His most Christian Majesty therefore,  
 “ might very well be the *Aggressor* in this  
 “ Case, he might *load our Trade with Customs*,  
 “ and *interrupt it with Prohibitions*, because  
 “ he might have the Address and Skill to pre-  
 “ vent the like Practices in *England*, not be-  
 “ cause he thought our Trade either ruinous  
 “ to his own Country, or beneficial to this  
 “ Kingdom. Our Legislators in the Pream-  
 “ ble of their Prohibition Act, in the Reign  
 “ of King *Charles II.* have expressly affirm-  
 “ ed, that the *French* Importations were ruin-  
 “ ous to this Nation ; but his most Chri-  
 “ stian Majesty's Prohibitions or high Du-  
 “ ties, are no Demonstration, that he ever  
 “ thought his People lost upon the Ballance of  
 “ their Trade with *England*, or that they were  
 “ not always very great Gainers by that  
 “ Trade.

“ The Truth is, the *French* Nation has  
 “ been now above 50 Years labouring at the  
 “ Woollen Manufactures ; and as fast as they  
 “ increased in Skill, the *French* King, like a  
 “ wise Prince, made it his Endeavour to re-  
 “ move every Obstruction. The Woollen  
 “ Manu-

*Reasons  
 why France  
 laid Tariffs  
 on foreign  
 Manufactures.*

“ Manufactures of *England* and other Coun-  
 “ tries were the chief Obstruction, there-  
 “ fore first, high Duties were laid on the fo-  
 “ reign Manufactures by the Tariff of 1664,  
 “ these were doubled by the Tariff of 1667;  
 “ and when at last the *French* Manufactures  
 “ came to be able to supply that whole Coun-  
 “ try, then the foreign Manufactures were  
 “ prohibited. In the whole Progress of this  
 “ Matter, he has shewn a Resolution to make  
 “ Trade as beneficial as possible to his own  
 “ People; but has given no Opinion at all,  
 “ that upon the Ballance of the whole Exports  
 “ and Imports between *England* and *France*,  
 “ the former was the Gainer.

“ So much for the Evidence of his most  
 “ Christian Majesty. His other personal Evi-  
 “ dence is that of the late King *William* and  
 “ Queen *Mary*; they it seems, declar’d their  
 “ Opinion, that the *French* Trade was always  
 “ beneficial to this Nation, before the In-  
 “ terruptions given on that side by Prohibi-  
 “ tions and high Duties. A wonderful Ar-  
 “ gument this! And such as must needs  
 “ force the Assent of every Man in the King-  
 “ dom!

“ And when was it these Princes declared  
 “ their Opinion in this Matter? In the Be-  
 “ ginning of the Year 1689. They came  
 “ into *England* the latter End of the Year  
 “ 1688, and they had a long time, and a  
 “ great deal of Leisure to instruct them-  
 “ selves in the whole Value of the *French*  
 “ Trade, by the Beginning of 1689. To  
 “ such wretched Stuff as this, are the Advor-

“ cates



“ cates of the *French Trade* reduced for their  
“ Support !

“ But in what have King *William* and  
“ Queen *Mary* declared their Opinion for  
“ the *French Trade* ? Why, in their Decla-  
“ ration of War, in the Beginning of the  
“ Year 1689, against the *French King*, they  
“ charge this Prince with a Design to destroy  
“ our Trade with *France*, upon which the  
“ *Wealth and Safety of this Nation* so much de-  
“ pend.

“ As for Queen *Mary*, she had no part of  
“ the Administration. Her Name was join-  
“ ed to the King’s for Form sake. But it is  
“ highly probable that the Declaration of War  
“ was never read to her for her Approbation :  
“ So that here is an End of her Personal Evi-  
“ dence.

“ But how shall this be said to be an Evi-  
“ dence of the King’s Judgment concerning  
“ the *French Trade* ? The Declaration is a  
“ Declaration of War ; that is the principal  
“ thing. It is indeed customary in such Cases,  
“ to heap up as many Aggravations as possi-  
“ ble, so that those Words in the Declaration  
“ concerning our Trade, will rather be thought  
“ to be the Words of a Secretary, than of the  
“ late King, who cannot be presum’d, after  
“ so short an Acquaintance with *England*, to  
“ have had any clear Knowledge of our Pro-  
“ fit or Loss by our Trade with *France*. For  
“ this, he might very well content himself  
“ with the Suggestions of his Council ; and  
“ by what has happened in our Memories, it  
“ is very possible for a Prince’s Council to be  
“ mistaken.

“ But

“ But after all, what if there is nothing in  
 “ the Declaration which either suggests or im-  
 “ plies, that the *French Trade* was ever bene-  
 “ ficial to this Kingdom? The Words cited  
 “ by this Man, to be a Part of the Declarati-  
 “ on of the King are these, *His forbidding the*  
 “ *Importation of a great Part of the Product and*  
 “ *Manufactures of the Kingdom, and imposing*  
 “ *exorbitant Customs upon the rest, are sufficient*  
 “ *Evidences of his Design to destroy the Trade on*  
 “ *which the Wealth and Safety of this Nation so*  
 “ *much depend.*

*The Decla-  
 ration of  
 War by  
 William the  
 Third, shews  
 France had  
 vast Advan-  
 tages by our  
 Trade.*

“ Now to shew the Honesty of this Wri-  
 “ ter, even this Argument, as poor a one as  
 “ it is, he durst not offer to his Readers, till  
 “ he had mangled the Words, and left out the  
 “ most Principal of that Part of the Declara-  
 “ tion. The very Words, as they stand in  
 “ the Declaration of War, are as follow:  
 “ *Forbidding the Importation of a great Part of*  
 “ *the Product and Manufactures of the King-*  
 “ *dom, and imposing exorbitant Customs upon the*  
 “ *Rest, NOTWITHSTANDING THE*  
 “ *VAST ADVANTAGES HE AND THE*  
 “ *FRENCH NATION REAP BY THEIR*  
 “ *COMMERCE WITH ENGLAND, are*  
 “ *sufficient, &c.* Here he has artfully enough  
 “ left out these last Words, because they did  
 “ not make at all for his Argument. For  
 “ could the Trade be so very beneficial to  
 “ *England*, and yet the *French King* and his  
 “ Subjects reap such vast Advantages by our  
 “ Commerce? Forgeries, and Omissions of  
 “ the most principal Parts of Records, are  
 “ small things with him.

“ But

## *The Trade with France.*

“ But the Words (whether as quoted by  
“ the *Mercator*, or as they stand in the De-  
“ claration) do by no means imply, that  
“ the Wealth and Safety of the Nation de-  
“ pend on our Trade to *France*. They do,  
“ no doubt, upon our Trade with the whole  
“ World, tho’ that with *France* is very rui-  
“ nous; and if the last is made still more  
“ ruinous by the *French King’s* Prohibitions  
“ and high Duties, the Profit of our Trade  
“ with the whole Commercial World is so  
“ much the less, and the Wealth and Safety  
“ of *England* cannot depend so much upon  
“ it. This is the most that can be imply’d  
“ by the Words; it can never be the Mean-  
“ ing of those who penn’d the Declarati-  
“ on, that the Wealth and Safety of this  
“ Nation depended on our Trade to *France*;  
“ if it had, King *William* would never have  
“ begun that War, which was an entire  
“ Interruption of that Trade. But these  
“ People, I believe, are the very first that e-  
“ ver brought a Declaration of War, to prove  
“ the great Advantages of any particular  
“ Trade.  
I am, Sir, &c.

## *P O S T C R I P T.*

“ I am sorry, Sir, I have taken up so much  
“ of your Time upon an Argument that  
“ does not deserve an Answer. I will endea-  
“ vour to make you amends by a short Post-  
“ script.  
“ The *Mercator* has affirm’d, that we are  
“ in a lamentable Condition, for want of the  
“ Treaty

## The British Merchant.

“ Treaty of Commerce ; for our Goods,  
 “ say he, are prohibited in *France*, where  
 “ as the *French* Linens, and other Manu-  
 “ factures, may be imported here with high  
 “ Duties, and after having drawn back the  
 “ Duties, may be re-exported to our Planta-  
 “ tions.

No Draw-  
 back on  
 French  
 Goods.

“ But you ought to have told this Writer  
 “ long ago, that the Act of Parliament has  
 “ laid the high Duty of 25 *per Cent.* *ad val-*  
 “ *rem* on *French* Goods, and that no Provisi-  
 “ on is made in that or any other Act, for a  
 “ Draw-back of any Part of that Duty. So  
 “ that they cannot be exported to our Planta-  
 “ tions, but with that whole Load of Cu-  
 “ stoms. When the Law imposes a Duty,  
 “ and makes no Provision for a Draw-back,  
 “ the whole Duty still remains; and as long  
 “ as it does, there is no great danger of our  
 “ Plantations dealing much in the Manufac-  
 “ tures of that Nation.

*Reasons why the French ought not to insist on  
 any Reduction of Duties on their Wines.  
 Neither the Price nor Quantity of French  
 Wines have been abated by any of our former  
 high Duties.*

Reciprocal  
 Duties con-  
 sider'd, to  
 make Trade  
 equal be-  
 tween two  
 Countries.

I Shall proceed to consider the chief Articles  
 of Exports and Imports between us and  
*France*; and first, what reciprocal Duties will  
 be sufficient in each Country, to make the  
 Value of the one as great as the other, and to  
 hinder a Ballance in Gold or Silver going from  
 either

either Country ; and secondly, Whether such a Reciprocation of Duties is provided for by the late Treaty of Commerce between us and *France*.

In the first Place, I ought to observe what Goods of both Countries ought to be excepted from this Equality or Reciprocation of Duties. To which I make this general Answer, that all such ought to be excepted as are peculiar to the Growth of either Country. For example, Suppose that equal Duties of 5, or 10, or 15 *per Cent.* of the real Value, were sufficient to enable us to sell as great a Value of Woollen Manufactures to *France*, as *France* could import upon us of Silks and Linens ; then in these two Articles, an Equality of Duties were all that is to be required in either Country. But this can be no Reason why no more of the real Value shall be imposed on the Wines that shall be imported from *France* into *Great Britain*, because we have no Wines of our own Growth, and can import none so good as those of *France* from any other Country. So that if equal Duties on the Woollen Manufactures of *Britain*, and the Silks and Linens of *France*, would make the Ballance even between both Countries in those two Articles, and only equal Duties should be imposed on *French* Wines, or not enough to amount to a Prohibition, the whole Value of the Wines that shall be imported, will be a Ballance against *Great Britain*. Wines therefore ought to be excepted out of this Equality or Reciprocation of Duties. *Great Britain* ought to be left at Liberty to impose on Wines at her Discretion, to prevent the Payment of any Ballance. This



This is admirably well treated by the Merchants in 1674, who made some Proposals to the Commissioners then appointed for a Treaty of Commerce with *France*, in the Explanation of their Proposals.

Their third Proposal was, that there might be an Equality of Duties according to the true Value of the Goods exported and imported between both Countries. But then foreseeing that *France* would object against this Equality of Duties to be laid on the Manufactures of each Country,

*That his Majesty hath laid great Impositions on French Wines and Brandy, which (as they may suppose or pretend) may be prejudicial to France both in QUANTITY and PRICE.* To this the Merchants answer as follows,

“ First, That in Fact it is far otherwise;  
 “ for that since his Majesty’s imposing those  
 “ Duties, the Quantities of Wine and Brandy imported into *England* from *France* have  
 “ been far greater, and purchased at much  
 “ higher Prizes than before.

*Imports of  
 French  
 Wine, and  
 the Price,  
 for sundry  
 Years.*

“ From *Michaelmas* 1663 to *Michaelmas*  
 “ 1664, there were imported into the Port  
 “ of *London* 6828 Tuns of *French Wine*:  
 “ And the Quantity of Brandy was then so  
 “ small, that it deserves not to be noted.

“ From *Michaelmas* 1667 to *Michaelmas*  
 “ 1669, being after the raising the Duties  
 “ on those Commodities, there were imported  
 “ into the Port of *London* in the said two  
 “ Years,

“ About 17,000 Tuns of Wine.

“ About 3000 Tuns of Brandy.

“ From

“ From *Michaelmas* 1672 to *Michaelmas*  
 “ 1674, being two Years, were imported  
 “ into the Port of *London*, upwards of 22,  
 “ 500 Tuns of Wine.

“ In *Anno* 1667, the Year preceding the  
 “ last great Imposition, the Price of *Langone*  
 “ Wines in *France* was not above 43 Crowns  
 “ per Tun clear on board.

“ In *Anno* 1668 the Price was 47 Crowns

“ In *Anno* 1669 ——— — 54 Crowns

“ In *Anno* 1670 ——— — 53 Crowns

“ In *Anno* 1671 ——— — 55 Crowns

“ In *Anno* 1672 ——— — 50 Crowns

“ In *Anno* 1673 ——— — 56 Crowns

“ And this Year, *Anno* 1674, 70 Crowns  
 “ per Tun, clear on board.

“ And all Sorts of Clarets are risen double  
 “ in Price since the Year 1667; so that it is  
 “ evident that the Impositions on Wines and  
 “ Brandy in *England* are only on his Maje-  
 “ sty's Subjects, on the Consumption, and do  
 “ no ways impair the Trade of those Com-  
 “ modities, either in Quantity or Price, to  
 “ the People of *France*.

“ 2. We answer, That Impositions in  
 “ *England* on Wine and Brandy cannot pro-  
 “ perly be objected against the Reduction of  
 “ the Impositions on *English* Manufactures in  
 “ *France*; for that the *French* Manufactures  
 “ imported into *England* do not only answer,  
 “ but exceedingly much surmount in Value  
 “ the *English* Manufactures imported into  
 “ *France*: So that the Wine and Brandy  
 “ stands upon a distinct Foot, and the *French*  
 “ have wholly the Advantage thereof above

“the *English*.” That is, they have a Balance against us upon all the other Goods exported and imported between the two Nations; and therefore the whole Price paid for *French Wines* is so much added to that Balance, so much clear Gain to that Country. And for this Reason then the Merchants thought the *French Wines* ought not to be comprehended in the above-mentioned Reciprocation or Equality of Duties between the two Nations, but be left to our Discretion to deal with them as we thought fit.

But many things are very remarkable in the above-mention’d Allegations of the Merchants, and every one against the *Mercator*.

First, That the Increase of Duties did not lessen the Consumption of *French Wines*, the Importation of them increased presently after the Imposition of the high Duties; they were before not above 6850 Tuns, they increased presently after to 8500, and so on to above 11,000 Tuns.

What then is become of his Maxim, That Dearthness of Commodities lessens the Consumption? Here it is plain the Consumption increased, notwithstanding the Price. I have shewn that it still increased even after the last high Duties were almost doubled, in the first Year of King *James II*. How then will he be able to maintain his Maxim against so plain a Matter of Fact? But the Truth is, as *Luxury* increases, sumptuary Laws are hardly able to provide against it.

The next thing is, as to the Price of the *Wines*, the *Mercator*’s *French Wines* are

ver above 8 or 9 *l.* at a Medium ; and therefore by turns he has been very angry with the OLD SCHEME for the Valuation of *French Wines* at 12 *l.* 10 *s.* per Tun in the Year 1669, with the *British Merchant* for 17 *l.* 10 *s.* per Tun in 1685, and with the *Guardian* for 25 *l.* per Tun at this time of Day.

Behold here the Prices of *Langoon Wines*, the cheap White Wines of *France* ! In 1668, 47 Crowns, or even tho' the Exchange were at Par, 10 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.* per Tun ; in 1669, 54 Crowns, or 12 *l.* 3 *s.* per Tun ; in 1670, 11 *l.* 18 *s.* 6 *d.* in 1671, 12 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* in 1672, 50 Crowns, or 11 *l.* 5 *s.* in 1673, 56 Crowns, 12 *l.* 12 *s.* and in 1674, 75 Crowns, or 16 *l.* 17 *s.* 6 *d.* By which we may see that the Prices of *French Wines* have been gradually increasing since the Year 1668, and that even the Prices of the lowest Wines are very little short of that in the Scheme for the best and the worst together.

But the Quantities of *Graves Clarets*, *Pontacks*, and other dear Wines, being added to the *Langoon Wines*, will make it hard to believe that the Price of all Sorts of Wine imported in 1669, could come out at less than 12 *l.* 10 *s.* at a Medium, especially since *Clarets* have been generally the Draught in this Kingdom ; and of these the Merchants say in 1674, the Price of 1668 had been quite doubled.

My Adversary takes his Price of 8 or 9 *l.* per Tun from the Inspector-General, who appeals to the Merchants of that Time. The Merchants of that Time, to whom he makes

his Appeal, know of no such Price as 8 or 9*l.* *per Tun*, and have accordingly here justified the very Price of 12*l.* 10*s.* in the SCHEME. The gradual Rise from that time makes it credible, that the *British Merchant* was in the right in his Price of 17*l.* 10*s.*

His Objection against this Price, as if it would justify the Breach of the *Portugal Treaty*, since *French Wines* at such Price were likely to give very little Obstruction to those of *Portugal*, has been already answered; and I demonstrated, that the Price of *French Wines*, even with *Portugal Duties* upon them, would be 40*s.* *per Tun* cheaper than those of *Portugal* for several Years last past at a Medium; and that even tho they should be at the *Guardian's* Price of 25*l.* *per Tun*, they would not be above Two-pence *per Quart* dearer: And can any Man then imagine that they would not be the common Draught of this Kingdom?

For my own part, I can see nothing less than 10 or 12000 Tuns of *French Wines* at 20 to 25*l.* *per Tun*, to be imported either fairly or clandestinely, to our Loss of 2 or 300,000*l.* *per ann.* if the Treaty of Commerce should be made effectual; that is, if *France* shall in all things be as much favoured as the Nations the most favoured. But the Value of her other Goods and Manufactures imported upon us will so much surmount, as our Merchants say, that of all the Goods we shall be able to send to that Country upon the Foot of the late Treaty, I make no doubt she will easily give up the Article of Wines for the



the sake of the Ballance she is likely to gain in other Articles; unless she should resolve to adhere to it, not only for the sake of her own Profit, but that we may break with *Portugal*, and destroy one of the most profitable Trades we ever had in *Europe*.

They were Merchants, and *French* Merchants too, and indeed all that were eminent in that Trade in the Year 1674, who made the Representation from whence I have taken this Extract. Some of them too were very much in the Favour of the Court; one of them, as I remember, was made a Commission-Alderman by the late King *James* for the City of *London*, after that City had been illegally deprived of her Charter; so that they could not be all said to be a PARTY, or a FACTION against the Court. Yet in this they agreed one and all, That the *French Manufactures* (even without *Wines and Brandy*) imported into *England*, did not only answer, but exceedingly much surmount in Value the *English Manufactures* imported into *France*; so that, said they, the *Wine and the Brandy* stands upon a distinct Foot, and the *French* have wholly the Advantage thereof above the *English*. The Meaning of this Part of the Representation is, that the *French Manufactures* imported into *England* vastly over-ballanced all our Exportations to that Country, and that the whole Cost of *Wine and Brandy* was so much added to the Ballance against *England*: That *France*, besides a vast Profit by the rest of our Trade, gained clear the whole Cost of *Wine and Brandy* from this Nation.

*The Con-  
sumption of  
French  
Wine consi-  
der'd.*

The Representation shews, that notwithstanding tho high additional Duties imposed on *French Wines in England*, notwithstanding the Increase of their Cost in *France* from the Year 1663 to 1674, yet the Importation continued every Year increasing.

The Duties were doubled in the first of King *James II.* in the Year 1685: and by the Invoices of that Time it appears, that the Cost of Wines clear on board in *France* was vastly increased beyond that of the Years before-mentioned; and yet the Quantity imported in that and the following Years, and entered at the *Custom-House*, was vastly greater than at any time before, when the Cost and the Duties were a great deal less.

The Use I would make of this is, that small Impositions may be sufficient to restrain Luxury in its Infancy; but when it is once grown up, and has taken hold of a Nation, it grows out of the Reach of the severest sumptuary Laws that can be made.

We have indeed since made the Duties as high again upon the Wines of *France* as those of other Nations; and yet it is very much to be questioned whether even this would have much lessened the Consumption, if a War at the same time with *France* had not made a total Interruption of all manner of Commerce with that Nation, if this had not made it very penal to the Importer: and yet we remember, even during the War, how greedily these Wines were sought after by Gentlemen at sometimes double, often at treble the Cost of those of *Portugal* and other Nations.

Peace

Peace at last has opened the Trade to *France*, but the high Duties still remain, and the Customs are pretty well looked after by the numerous Officers at the Port of *London*. And yet we see the Importation of *French* Wines has increased at the Port of *London*; but for the Coast of *Great Britain*, which is of vast Extent, and not so well attended, what Quantities must we believe have been clandestinely imported? Every Gentleman upon the Coast drinks his *French* Wine at less than the very Cost of the Duties. If these then should be levelled to those of the Nations the most favoured, according to the late Treaty of Commerce, can we be so fond as to imagine that they will not be the common Draught of this Kingdom? and that the Importation of *Portugal* Wines will not be reduced again to the Quantity of 2 or 300 Tuns *per Ann.*

Clarets, formerly the Drink of almost no other Country except *Great Britain*, are now arrived at such Reputation in so many other Places, that the Cost of them in *France* has been gradually increasing above forty Years; and if the Merchants would produce their Invoices of some of the last Years, the Prices would appear double to what is represented by the Merchants in the Year 1669; and yet even at this double Price they have been demanded. But if the Duties shall be levelled to those of the Nations the most favoured, even at the advanced Price, they will be imported almost as cheap as the Wines of *Portugal*; and if the Qualities of both shall be considered, a great deal cheaper. And can we que-

sion then that they will be the common Draught of *Great Britain*?

It is therefore excessively foolish in the *Mercator* to argue from 40 or 50 Years past to the present Time; to argue from the Quantities then imported, that we shall now import a great deal less, because of the Increase of the Duties from 7 *l.* 10 *s.* to 27 *l.* and of the first Cost of the Wines from 12 *l.* 10 *s.* to double that Cost, that we shall import less than we did in those Years. Experience and Fact are against his Argument. The Consumption has increased with the Cost and the Duties. Sumptuary Laws are scarce sufficient to restrain the growing Luxury of a Nation; and I must believe that I have been modest in my Calculation of 10 or 12000 Tuns of Wine to be annually imported from *France* even at the first Cost of 25 *l.* and under the Duty of 27 *l.* per Tun, which added to the Profit of the Importer and Retailer, will not altogether make those Wines above 18 or 20 *d.* per Quart. If this should be the Case, *France* will drain us every Year of 250000 *l.* for Wines.

*And of  
Brandy.*

The next Article is their Brandy. The Importation of this was inconsiderable in 1663, according to the Representation of the Merchants, and not worth their Notice. The Duty then was but a Trifle. But tho' Brandy then could be afforded so very cheap, yet it was in very little use in *England*; it was not the fashionable Luxury of this Kingdom, it was but then beginning to creep in upon us. Soon after a high Duty was laid upon it, and then the Merchants represent that from *Michaelmas*

*chaelmas* 1667 to *Michaelmas* 1669, about 3000 Tuns were imported, that is, about 1500 Tuns *per ann.*

The *Mercator* would have us believe, that so large an Importation was owing to the Consumption of the old Stock by the Fire of the City of *London*.

To confute this Imagination, we read in the above-mentioned Representation of the Merchants, that from *Michaelmas* 1671 to *Michaelmas* 1673, there were imported into *London* above 7315 Tuns of Brandy, above 3657 Tuns *per ann.* This for *London* only, besides what was imported at the Out-Ports. Was this too owing to the Fire of *London*, which happened so many Years before?

We may see therefore that this Part of our Luxury was then making large Steps into this Kingdom, that it was rushing in upon us in spite of the Duties, which were then thought to be very high.

The Merchants therefore might very well suppose the annual Importation of Brandy to be 4000 Tuns, as they do in the OLD SCHEME, when it was already arrived to that Quantity. The same Merchants that drew this Representation, were the very Persons that presented with it the OLD SCHEME to the Commissioners then appointed for making a Treaty of Commerce with *France*.

It is manifest that the Merchants never intended to have it thought, that 4000 Tuns of Brandy were imported from *Michaelmas* 1668 to *Michaelmas* 1669, since the very same Per-



sons have in their Representation supposed the whole Quantity imported from *Michaelmas* 1667 to *Michaelmas* 1669, two Years, to be no more than 3000 Tuns of Brandy ; they could not therefore make the Quantity 4000 Tuns for one of those Years. The 4000 Tuns therefore they supposed might be the Quantity of our future annual Importations, according to the Measure of the two Years from *Michaelmas* 1671 to *Michaelmas* 1673, when almost 4000 Tuns *per ann.* were imported into the Port of *London*. The OLD SCHEME has not fixed just 4000 Tuns of Brandy for the Importation of 1668-9. The Article is worded thus, 4000 TUNS OF BRANDY ONE YEAR WITH ANOTHER ; which shews them to have had a particular Eye to the vast Increase of that Importation in succeeding Years.

But that which deserves our chief Observation in the Increase of our Expence of Brandy, is, that it was then growing apace upon the Nation ; and perhaps neither Customs nor Excises had been able to hinder the open or clandestine Importation of this Commodity, if at last a War had not come on with *France*, which was a total Interruption of all manner of Commerce with that Nation.

But did this put an end to the Luxury, which was very far advanced ? No, from the Loss of this beloved Brandy, we fell immediately to supplying the Want of it with Malt-Spirits, and some drawn from Molosses, far below the Value of *French* Brandy ; but yet we made a shift with it, when Brandy could not be imported.

Our

Our Manufacture of Malt-Spirits increas'd by this means to 1,600,000 Gallons *per ann.* which made a Consumption of at least 80,000 Quarters of our Malt, to the great Improvement of the Landed Interest.

*Malt and  
Malt Spi-  
rits consi-  
der'd.*

But where is the Carman or the Porter, who would not rather chuse a Quart of *French Brandy* than a Gallon of Malt-Spirits? And yet if the Customs and Excises on the former shall be reduced to 51 *l. per Tun*, *French Brandy* will not be three times the Price of our Malt-Spirits. Brandy is drawn from the lowest pric'd Wines, and is commonly sold at 20, seldom more than 25 *l. per Tun* in *France*; so that tho' the Customs and Excises should be at 51 *l. per Tun*, they will be afforded at 6 *s.* and 8 *d. per Gallon*. And then can any one imagine, that we shall not bid farewell to Malt-Spirits in this Kingdom? Whether Gentlemen will contentedly hear of the Loss of such a Market for their Malt, or whether they can believe the Value of their Lands will not be impaired by such a Loss, belongs to them to consider; for my own part, I am only considering the Loss of the whole Kingdom. If the Duties should be reduced according to the Terms of the late Treaty, I must believe that 2000 Tuns *per ann.* will be entered at the *Custom-House*; and no Man can be sure that half that Quantity ought not to be allowed for clandestine Importation: At 20 *l. per Tun*, the Cost of 3000 Tuns *per ann.* amounts to 60,000 *l.* so much ought to be added to the Ballance against *England*.

These

These two Articles of Wines and Brandy are likely to add above 300,000 *l. per ann.* to the Ballance against *England*, and this too for the Luxury of the People.

The Wines we import from *Portugal* and *Italy* we purchase for our Manufactures, and for the Product of our Lands, since we receive a Ballance from those Countries: And are we sure we shall not abate of our Exportations in proportion to the Quantity of Wines we shall cease to take from them? What will the Lands and the People of *England* suffer by the Loss of these Markets for such a Value of our Manufactures? And will Gentlemen be contented not only with this Loss, but that we should pay *France* 250,000 *l. per ann.* for the Wines of that Country?

Our Malt-Spirits are entirely the Product of our Lands, and the Labour of our People; and will Gentlemen be contented to pay 60,000 *l. per ann.* to *France* for Brandy, that a Market of equal Value may be lost for our Malt-Spirits?

I am glad at all times of sumptuary Laws against Luxury: But since it is hard to provide against it, let our People pay their own Country, and not *France*, for their Luxury.



*A Calculation of the annual Value of Linens consumed by England and our Plantations.*

*The Linen Manufacture made in England, pays the whole Value of it to our Lands, and the Labour of our People.*

*And so does that imported now from other Countries.*

*The Value of our own Linen Manufacture.*

*The Value of foreign Linens imported.*

*French Linens never paid any thing to the Lands or Labourers of England.*

*They deprived both of a Value equal to the Value of those Linens.*

*The Value of French Linens heretofore annually imported.*

**L**INEN heretofore was the largest single Article of our *French Imports* in the *Custom-house Books*, equal to almost thrice the Value of all our Woollen Manufactures exported to *France*, equal to almost all our Exports to that Nation of all kinds whatsoever. This is clear even by the Accounts from the *Custom-house*, which cannot be defective as to the Quantity of exported Goods, the large Allowances ought to be made beyond the Entries for Goods clandestinely imported, as I have already shewn, and I shall shew more particularly with respect to the Article of *French Linens*.

*French Linen equal to all our Exports to France.*

If the Duties on *French Linens* are to be reduced by the late Treaty of Commerce to those

on the Nations the most favoured, there is little Reason to believe that this Importation will not be as great as ever ; for what is an Half-penny *per Ell* beyond the former Duty ?

But Gentlemen are in no great Pain upon this Account ; they think we can suffer very little by the Loss of our Linen Manufactures ; and as for what shall be imported from abroad, they think they may be imported from *France* with as little Detriment to *England* as from any other Country whatsoever.

In all this they have too cheap an Estimation of Linens made in *England*, and of the Advantages accruing to us by our Importation of this Manufacture from other Countries since the Interruption of our Commerce with the *French* Nation. I shall endeavour now to give them other Thoughts of this Matter, by shewing,

First, The Value of the Linen Manufactures made in *England* ;

And Secondly, The Advantages accruing to us by our Importation of *German* and other Country Linens since the Interruption of our *French* Commerce.

Computation  
of the annual  
Value of  
Linen consumed in  
England.

For the First, I believe every Man will readily agree, that the Linens, whether of our own or foreign Manufacture, which are annually consumed in *England* only, are very considerable. If I shou'd affirm, that the *English* People great and small, rich and poor one with another, consume in Shirts, Sheets, Table-linen, and all other domestick Uses, the annual Value of 5 s. I believe there is not one Man in a hundred that wou'd not laugh at me for

rating



rating the annual Consumption of the People in Linen at too low a Value.

And yet if the People of *England* are rightly computed at seven Millions, this Number multiplied by five Shillings, will produce thirty five Millions of Shillings, or one Million seven hundred and fifty thousand Pounds *Sterling*. The annual Consumption of every one, at five Shillings *per* Head at a Medium, will amount to so great a Sum.

If to this shall be added, the Canvass for our Shipping, and coarse Cloths for the Package, and embaling of Goods and Merchandizes, and also the Consumption of our Plantations in the *West-Indies*, which before the Union were served only from *England*, I believe no Man will think me extravagant, in rating the whole annual Consumption of Linens at 1,750,000 *l*.

If all the Linens annually consum'd in *England* were of her own Growth and Manufacture from the Flaxseed to the Draper's Shop, I believe no Man could doubt the Advantages of it to this Kingdom; the annual Consumption of 1,750,000 *l*. Value of Linen, all our own Manufacture, wou'd not be brought to pay less for Flax to the Lands than a fifth Part of that Sum, and four fifth Parts to the Labour of our People. A Manufacture which shou'd pay these respective Sums to the Lands and Labour of *England*, wou'd deserve to be cultivated with the utmost Care and Application.

*Importance  
of the Linen  
Manufac-  
ture.*

I shall endeavour therefore to shew, that the annual Consumption of Linen at this Time  
in

in *England*, and our *West-India* Plantations, whether made here, or imported from other Countries, does either directly or indirectly pay the above-mentioned Sums to the Landholders and Labourers.

There can be no question of this, with respect to the Linens made in *England*, in proportion to their Value ; but I believe I shall be able to shew, that the Case is the same with respect to all that are imported now from other Countries, since the Prohibitions or high Duties on *French* Linens, and the total Interruption of Commerce with that Nation.

To begin with our own Linen Manufacture. It is far more considerable than is generally believed. Indeed, because it is not of that Extent, nor the Business of so many Counties as our Woollen Manufactures, as I have expressed myself before, Men have too cheap an Estimation of it, they are in little or no Pain what becomes of the Linen Manufacture.

*An Account  
of Foreign  
Linens im-  
ported.*

But to shew the Value of Linens made in *England*, we must first know the Value of those imported from other Countries. In the first Report of the *Inspector-General* of the Customs, we read that the Importation of *German* Linens, by a Medium of three Years, from *Christmas* 1699 to *Christmas* 1702, amounted to *per ann.*

519,737

By his second Report, the *Holland* Linens imported in 1703,  
amounted to ————

213,701 19 11

From

Per Annum.

From *Flanders, Muscovy*, and other Foreign Countries, I am informed the Value of imported Linens may be — — 60,000

I am informed too, that the Importation of *Scotch Linen*, does not exceed 130,000 *l. per Ann.* nor that of *Ireland* 80,000 *l.* in the whole — — — 210,000

So that all the Linens imported into *England* will not exceed 1,003,438 19 11

If it shall be allowed, that our annual Consumption of Linen amounts to — — — 1,750,000

And that our present annual Importation does not exceed 1,003,438 19 11

It will remain, that the *English* Linen Manufacture amounts to — — — 746,561 0 1

If the annual Consumption of Linens of our own Manufacture in *England*, and in our Plantations, to the Value of 1,750,000 *l.* wou'd be allowed to pay the Sums I have mentioned to our Lands, and the Labour of our People, then our own Linen Manufacture of above one third of that Value, must give above one third of those Sums to the like Uses. If this were the whole Value of the Linens manufactured in *England*, certainly we shou'd not abandon so useful a Manufacture.

But in the next place, the Consumption of Linens imported from the above-mentioned Countries has the very same, or as good an Effect, in proportion to their Value; for every one of those Countries takes from us an Over-ballacen

*Foreign Linens imported pay their Value to the Lands, and the Labour of our People.*

ver-balance of our Goods and Merchandizes, and especially of our Woollen Manufactures: and this they could not do, or at the least must abate in proportion to our Importation of their Linens; *Germany* especially, which already, according to the *Inspector-General's* Report, pays us a Balance of 170000 *l. per ann.* And can a Country which has little Foreign Trade, and imports very little Gold or Silver from abroad, afford still to take off from us the same Quantity of Goods and Merchandizes, tho' we shou'd cease to buy their Linens? and instead of 170000 *l. per ann.* pay us a Balance of that Sum, and 50000 *l.* more than they do at present? In this case then it must be acknowledged, that we purchase Goods for Goods; and if the Goods or Manufactures exported hence, for such a Value of Linens, contribute equally to our Lands or Labouring People, it is the same thing as if the Returns of Linens were of our own Manufacture; whether our Lands or Labourers are paid directly by the Linen Manufacture, or by the Manufacture of Woollen and other Goods which are exported to purchase these Linens, it is one and the same thing. Our annual Consumption of Linen, to the Value of one Million seven hundred and fifty thousand Pounds, whether made in *England*, or imported from the above-mentioned Countries, in exchange for our own native Product and Manufactures, does either directly or indirectly pay that whole Sum to the Lands, and the labouring People of *England*.

Now

Now this can never be said in defence of *Except from* the *French* Trade, or the Importation of Linens from that Country. We NEVER sold, I will venture to say NEVER, no *Custom-House* Account can shew that we EVER sold an Over-balance of Goods and Merchandizes to that Country. *France.*

On the contrary, we always purchased thence a great Over-balance of Goods and Merchandizes, for which we paid in Gold or Silver, and this to more than the whole Amount or Value of all the Linens imported from that Nation. How is it possible then to say, that the Linens imported from *France* contributed any thing either directly or indirectly to our Lands, or our labouring People? They could not do it directly, since they were not the Product of our Lands, nor the Manufacture of our own People: They could not do it indirectly, since they were purchas'd by our Money, and not by the Product of our Lands, nor the Labour of our People; since they were not purchas'd by any Manufactures of our own, or by any other Goods or Merchandizes which paid the Value of those Linens to our Lands, or our labouring People.

But this was not the worst Part of our Condition; when almost our whole Consumption was of *French* Linens, they not only *exhausted* our *Treasure*, and paid nothing to the Lands or the Labourers of *England*, but they *lessened* the Value of our Native Commodities and Manufactures; that is, they took off so much from the Value of our Lands, and the Hire of the People, as is now paid to both by the annual



al Consumption of Linens, which are either entirely of our own Growth and Manufacture, or, which is the same thing in effect, procur'd or purchas'd in exchange for our own Product and Manufactures; and which therefore pay our Lands and our Labourers the whole Value of our present annual Consumption.

Is it possible then that Linens shall be hereafter imported from *France*, without lessening at the same time in proportion our own Manufacture, or our Importation from other Countries? And if this shall be the Consequence, will not our Lands and our People be deprived of the Sums which are annually paid to them by our present annual Consumption?

It may be worth while to consider here, how much was lost to both formerly, when our chief Consumption was of *French* Linens. The *Custom-House* Accounts may tell us either 3 or 4, or 500000*l.* Value of Linens were enter'd in their Books, but they can give us no Account of clandestine Importations; and yet these in proportion were as detrimental as the other. But there is another way more certain of coming at this Knowledge, and that is by the Increase of this Manufacture at home, and by the Increase of the Importation from other Countries.

*An Account  
of the In-  
crease of  
Foreign Li-  
nens import-  
ed.*

Whatsoever is this Increase, it is for our own Consumption, and that of our own Plantations. *England* exports no Linen to other Countries. Few People will believe that we are richer now, or abound more in Numbers than before the Beginning of the first *French* War.

War. All that are of this Opinion must necessarily conclude, that our Consumption of Linens was as great then as it is now. All then that we have increased in our own Manufacture, and in our Importations from other Countries, was the very Value that we imported heretofore from *France*.

From *Germany* we imported formerly, by the Inspector-General's Account, Linens of the Value of 121,682 *l.* now the Value of 519,737 *l. per Ann.* the Increase is ———— *l. s. d.*  
398,055 0 0

From *Holland* formerly, 170, 972 *l. 15 s.* now 213,701 *l. 19 s. 11 d.* the Increase is ———— 42,729 4 11

From *Flanders*, and other foreign Countries, I am inform'd our Importations have increas'd, but from *Scotland* I have heard that our Importation formerly was not above 30,000 *l.* and that it is 130,000 *l. per Ann.* the Increase is ———— 100,000 0 0

The whole Importation of 80,000 *l.* from *Ireland*, is an Increase of ———— 80,000 0 0

Besides which, there is an Increase of 240,000 *l. per Annum* Linen Manufacture in *Lancashire* and *Cheeshire*. This is very probable, if the Representations from those Countries are to be credited that they have 10,000 Looms, and 60000 People wholly employ'd and subsisted by that Manufacture ———— 240,000 0 0

Of English  
Linens.

In

In like manner it is alledged,  
that the Increase of our own Li-  
nen Manufacture in *Dorsetshire*  
and *Somersetshire* is an — —

And in other *English* Counties

100,000 0 0

40,000 0 0

So that according to this Ac-  
count, the Increase of our own  
Linen Manufacture, and of our  
Importation from other Coun-  
tries, amounts to ———

960,784 4 11

*Value of  
French  
Linen for-  
merly im-  
ported.*

If our Consumption, for the above-menti-  
oned Reasons, is no greater now than it was  
formerly, then this whole Increase must be  
lost to *France*, and let the *Custom-house* Ac-  
counts say what they will, either fairly or clan-  
destinely, our whole Importation of Linen  
from *France* must heretofore have exceeded  
900,000 *l. per Ann.* It is easy then to see of  
what annual Sums we were drained by this  
Article of *French* Linens, and how much they  
lessen'd the Value of our native Commodities  
and Manufactures, of how much Rent they  
must have robb'd our Lands, and of how much  
of the Hire of the poor labouring People of  
this Kingdom. And are we contending like  
Madmen for such a Trade as this?

*The Increase of the Silk Manufacture in England consider'd.*

*The Value of it to our own Lands and labouring People shewn.*

*The Increase of our Silk Manufacture demonstrates, better than Custom-house Accounts, the annual Value heretofore imported from France.*

THE second Part of my last Argument shews, that the whole Increase of the Linen Manufacture made in *England*, and of the Importation from other Countries, is so much taken off from our Consumption of *French* Linens; or that we consume so much less of *French* Linens in proportion to that Increase. This making 960,000 *l. per Annum* in the whole, we want no other Demonstration that so great a Value of *French* Linens was annually imported into *England*. Whatsoever the Entries at the *Custom-house* make our Consumption of *French* Linens short of that Value, it must be made up by clandestine Importations.

And I believe there will be as good Reason to conclude, that the *Custom-house* Entries, in the Article of *French* wrought Silks, have been exceeding short of the real Importation. If we have increased in the Importation of Raw and Thrown Silk, and the Manufacture of these Commodities in *England*, or in the Importation of manufactur'd Silks from other Countries for our own Consumption, *France* and

and the *East-Indies* must be allow'd to have lost the selling us wrought Silks equal to that Increase; since, as in the Article of Linens, all who believe the Nation is not richer or more populous than it was before the Beginning of the last War, will easily be persuaded, that our Consumption of wrought Silks has not increas'd; so that whatsoever it has increas'd from other Places, is so much lost to *France* and the *East-Indies*.

As to our Increase of this Manufacture at home, this will appear in some measure by the vast Increase of the Importation of raw and thrown Silks from foreign Countries, from *Turkey*, *Italy*, and the *East-Indies*.

But here I must acknowledge, that the Importation of Ardafs, or coarse *Persia* Silk, from *Turkey*, is vastly abated. This has been principally occasioned by the Imposition of such Duties on it as it could not bear. But then this Loss has been in part supplied by a vast Importation of Grogram Yarns; and besides this, the Importation of Bellandine, or white *Turkey* Silk, and of Sherbaffee of *Persia*, is greater now than that of these and the cheap Ardafs Silks join'd together ever was before the Beginning of the first War. All the Work therefore that was formerly done with Ardafs Silks, and is now performed by Grogram Yarn, together with the whole Increase of the Number of Bales imported from that Country more than formerly, must be placed to the Account of the Increase of the Silk Manufacture in *England*.



I will not pretend to determine the Value of this Increase ; all I will say here shall be only to explain it. Suppose then, that formerly our annual Importation of Ardafs and other Silks imported from *Turkey* amounted to 1500 Bales, and that at this time the Importation of Bellandine and Sherbaffee amounts to 1600 Bales of Silk ; at first sight this would look as if only a hundred Bales of Silk more were brought into the *English* Manufacture : But if the Grogam Yarn, which is for the most part a new Importation, should be allowed to supply 500 Bales of Ardafs Silk, and that nevertheless 1600 Bales of raw Silk from *Turkey* are imported, then it would be manifest, that not only 100, but 600 Bales of our present annual Importation, must either be re-exported, or added to our Silk Manufacture. If it shall be allowed, that the *Turkey* Trade by this means furnishes 600 Bales of Silk *per Ann.* to our Manufacture more than it did before, I shall be very glad to be inform'd, whether such a Quantity is not sufficient to produce 80 or 90,000 *l.* weight of Wrought Silk ? The *Turkey* Merchants or rather the Weavers of *Spittlefields*, might certainly answer this Question ; and also, whether at least 600 Bales of *Turkey* Silk are not annually brought to our Looms more than before the Beginning of the first War.

But we are yet more sure of our Importation of *Piedmontese* and *Bergamo* Silks ; this amounts to near a thousand Bales in a Year, and is wholly new. Of these and other *Italian* thrown and raw Silks, we use at least 1200 Bales annually at our Looms more than we did before

the Beginning of the first War. And whence is this prodigious Increase of our Silk Manufacture, but from the Interruption of our Commerce with *France*, and the Prohibition of *East-India* Silks?

I have by me an Account of the *East-India* raw Silks imported for several Years last past; the whole Quantity, at a Medium, will make 400 Bales *per Annum*; so much of this as is not re-exported is used at the *English* Looms. If by these several Articles 2000 Bales are used at our Looms more than formerly, the Weavers will be able to answer, whether the Produce will amount to less than 280,000 *l.* weight of wrought Silk, and this Quantity, at 50 *s.* *per Pound*, will make the Increase of our Silk Manufacture 700,000 *l.* *per Annum*. I am very ready to believe that such has been the Increase, from what was asserted at the Bar of the last House of Commons by a Gentleman well skilled in these Matters. He asserted that our Manufacture of Lustings, Alamodes, and other black Silks for Hoods and Scarves only, amounted to ——— 300,000 *l.* *per Annum*.  
Of Silks for Linings of

Clothes in Imitation

of *Persians*, to 150,000 *l.* *per Annum*

Of Silk Handkerchiefs to 200,000 *l.* *per Annum*

The whole of these Ar-

ticles, ——— 650,000 *l.* *per Annum*

All this, besides the Recovery of Stuffs and Cottons mixt with Silks, which before were almost lost to this Kingdom.

Lustings

Lustrings and Alamodes are now very little used, the Silks that are used in their stead are Rastiegeans and Mantua Silks, which are quite a different Fabrick. But the whole Value, it seems, of our black Silks is 300,000 *l. per Annum*. This is an entire new Manufacture to *England*, with which before the first War we were wholly served by *France*. This is not such a prodigious Sum as People may imagine; it amounts to little more than 1 *s.* and 8 *d. per ann.* for every one of the Female Sex; and we may very well conceive that 300000 of this Sex are in these Silks every one at the Charge of 20 *s. per ann.* which makes up the whole Sum? But whatever is the Quantity, *France* served us with the whole before.

For Brocades and other rich Silks, almost the whole Quantity used in *England* were the Manufacture of that Nation, as well as great Part of the *Persians* for Linens: And if this last sort made in *England* amounts to 150,000 *l. per ann.* the whole of these two Articles imported may very well be believed to be the Value of 200,000 *l. per ann.*

The above-mentioned Articles, and that of Silk Handkerchiefs, make it credible that I am not much mistaken in my Computation of 2000 Bales of Silk manufactured by our own Looms, more than were before the Interruption of the *French* Commerce, and the Prohibition of *East-India* Manufactures. Whether such a Manufacture of so much Value deserves our Care or our Contempt, is the next thing to be considered.

In the first place I must insist upon it, that the whole Price of this Increase of our Silk Manufacture, from the Worm to the Mercer's Shop, is paid to the Product of our Lands, and to the Labour of our People.

There can be no question of the Silks which are imported raw from *Turkey*, and manufactured here in *England*. No Bullion is sent to that Country. The raw Silks are purchased there for our Woollen Manufactures ; and as a Part of the Price of these is paid to the Landholder for his Wool, and the rest to the Labour of our People that made it up, it must be affirmed that the whole Value of *Turkey* raw Silk is indirectly paid to our own People, by being paid to them for the Goods that are exchanged for it : And as for the whole new Value that is super-added to it, for the Charge of importing, throwing, weaving, and dying of this Silk, it is entirely and directly paid to the Labour of our own People.

The same thing may be affirmed of the raw and thrown *Italian* Silks ; they are both purchased by an Over-balance of *English* Manufactures exported to that Country ; and if the whole Value of these are directly paid to the *English* Lands and Labour, and if we could not hope to preserve our *Italian* Markets for them without taking off their Silks, it must be acknowledged that our Landholders and Labourers are indirectly paid the Value of these Silks, by being paid for the Goods that are exchanged for them.

The only Difficulty is concerning *East-India* raw Silks, which are purchased partly by  
paid

our Silver, and partly by our Manufactures. But of those it must be acknowledged, that the whole Price of importing and working them up is paid to the Labour of our People. But as *East-India* raw Silks are the least Part of our Importation, so it is of these that we make the greatest Re-exportations; and the Countries to which we do it, reimburse us not only our whole Cost of the re-exported raw Silk, but a very great Part of the Price, and perhaps the whole for all the raw Silk that is imported from the *East-Indies*. However, the throwing of raw Silk employs so many little and otherwise useless Hands, that I shall never quarrel with the *East-India* Trade for the little Silver it exports for those useful Materials.

But this can never be said in defence of a Trade which exchanges our Silver for Foreign Silks already manufactured to the very utmost Perfection; for what can these be said to pay to our Lands? what to the Labour of our People? It were better for us to send our Money to the *East-Indies* than to *France* for these manufactured Silks, not only because they are purchased cheaper in the former, but because the Cost of a long Importation is all paid to our own Navigation; besides that, it were less dangerous to enrich a Country so great a Distance, than so near a Neighbour as the *French* Nation.

But that which I am chiefly aiming at is, that this whole Increase of the Silk Manufacture in *England* is so much lost to other



Nations : For all that pretend that we are not richer nor more populous than we were before the War, will grant that our Consumption of wrought Silks cannot be greater than it was before. Whence then is this Increase of a Manufacture to the Value of 700,000 *per ann.* gained ? and to what Countries is it lost ? It must be wholly lost to *France* and the *East-Indies*, and how is this Loss to be proportioned ?

Our whole Quantity of black Silks was heretofore brought from *France*, our own Manufacture of this Commodity amounts to 300,000 *l. per ann.* *France* therefore has lost in this Article the selling us so great a Value.

There is no Reason to believe, that the whole Value of *East-India* wrought Silks annually consumed in *England* ever amounted to 200,000 *l. per ann.* it remains therefore to make up the whole 700,000 *l. per ann.* that the Value of 200,000 *l. per ann.* more in Brocades and other rich Silks must have been imported from *France*.

Then let the *Custom-House* Accounts make the wrought Silks imported from *France* as much or as little as they please ; the Increase of the Silk Manufacture in *England* will demonstrate, that our Importation of this Commodity from *France* was heretofore 500,000 *per ann.*

*The Authorities of Puffendorf, De Wit, and Fortry, produced, in order to confirm what has been before advanced concerning the vast Importations from France heretofore.*

**I**F a Matter of Fact is at any time disputed, and cannot easily be determined otherwise than by the Evidence of Persons, I always esteem Witnesses in proportion to their Knowledge and Indifference ; I ever think most Credit ought to be given to Witnesses that have been long since dead, or who can neither get nor lose by the Controversy.

The first Dispute concerning the *French Trade*, is, whether that Nation has heretofore sold to this an Over-balance of Goods and Merchandizes ? and consequently, whether we did not pay the Balance in Gold or Silver ? These Questions are denied by the other side, and affirmed by me.

A *Custom-House Account* I have produced, and it is against them ; the *Custom-House* has been searched for an Account on their side, but no such thing can be found.

*Custom-house Accounts* tell us the Truth, but not the whole Truth. They tell us, that we imported from *France* a great Over-balance of Goods and Merchandizes ; they tell us all, or very near all, that were exported, since it could not be the Interest of any Man to export Goods without making due Entries. But very

*The Custom-house can give no exact Account of Imports nor of Exports.*

great Duties are paid by the imported Goods which are entered at the *Custom-house*, all which are saved by clandestine Importations: The *Custom-house* can give us no Account of these clandestine Importations; and yet I have demonstrated that they were very great in the two Articles of Silks and Linens.

I was so fortunate as to find out Demonstrations in the Case of the above-mentioned Articles. For many other of our clandestine Importations, besides the Reason of saving the Duties, we must content ourselves with the Authority of Persons who from time to time have treated of these Matters, and whose Integrity at least is not to be suspected.

Puffendorf's  
Account.

The first I shall begin with, is *Puffendorf's Introduction to the History of Europe, English Translation, 7th Edit. pag. 212.* where, discoursing of *France*, he says, " Its Fertility is  
" not only sufficient for its Inhabitants, but al-  
" so plentiful enough to be exported into Fo-  
" reign Parts. The Commodities exported  
" out of *France*, are chiefly Wine, Brandy,  
" Vinegar, Salt, innumerable sorts of Silks,  
" and WOOLLEN Stuffs and Manufactures,  
" Hemp, Canvas, Linen, Paper, Glass, Saf-  
" fron, Almonds, Olives, Capers, Prunel-  
" loes, Chestnuts, Soap, and the like: Scarce  
" any Metals are to be found in *France*, and  
" no Gold and Silver Mines; but this Want  
" is supplied by the Ingenuity of the *French*,  
" and the FOLLY of FOREIGNERS; for  
" the *French* Commodities have drawn  
" FLEETS of their MONEY into *France*,  
" especially since *Henry IV.* set up the Silk  
" Manu-

“ Manufactory there. There are some who  
 “ have computed that *France* sells Stuffs *Ala-*  
 “ *mode* yearly to Foreigners only to the Value  
 “ of 40 Millions of Livres, Wine 15 Millions,  
 “ Brandy 5 Millions, Salt 10 Millions, and  
 “ so proportionably of other Commodities.  
 “ Mr. *Fortry*, an *Englishman*, says the Commo-  
 “ dities which were brought from *France* into  
 “ *England* exceeded what were carried from  
 “ *England* to *France* in the Value of 1,600,-  
 “ 000*l.* Sterling; and it is notorious, that by  
 “ what they send into *Spain* they get a great  
 “ Part of their *West-India* Plate Fleet. But  
 “ after all, Navigation does not flourish so  
 “ much in *France* as it might. The Reason  
 “ seems to be, that the *French* Nation is not  
 “ so much addicted to the Sea, and that other  
 “ Nations have been before-hand with them in  
 “ the *East* and *West-Indies*; which is the Rea-  
 “ son that the King, tho’ he has above a hun-  
 “ dred Capital Ships, yet cannot set out so  
 “ great a Fleet hitherto as the *English* and  
 “ *Dutch*. They apply themselves also to fish-  
 “ ing upon the great Sand-bank before *New-*  
 “ *foundland*. The King’s Revenues are com-  
 “ puted at 150 Millions of Livres, whereas in  
 “ the last Age it did not amount to above 9 or  
 “ 10 Millions; at the time of *Henry IV.* to  
 “ 16 Millions; and in the Year 1639 to 77  
 “ Millions: which vast Difference is in part  
 “ to be ascribed to the different Value of Mo-  
 “ ney since those Times, and the great Taxes  
 “ which were imposed upon the Subjects: but  
 “ without question the chief Reason is, that  
 “ *France* since that time has found out new

*The Silk*  
*Manufac-*  
*ture first*  
*establiſh’d*  
*in France.*

*The Revenue*  
*of France.*

“ Ways to draw Money out of other Countries.”

Thus far Mr. *Puffendorf*, who was a *Swede*, and therefore without any Bias towards us or *France*. For my own part, I believe he must have been mistaken, or at least the Translator, in his Valuation of Stuffs *Alamode* to the Value of 40 Millions, because he has made the Exportation much greater than other Authors. For the rest of his Articles, he differs from them very little; especially from Mr. *De Wit's Maxims of Holland*, the *English* Translation of which, pag. 269, is thus.

De Wit's  
Account.

“ As to *France*, we are to observe, that  
“ formerly that Country subsisted wholly by  
“ Tillage; but since the Reign of *Henry IV*,  
“ many heavy Impositions have been laid on  
“ all imported Manufactures; and the weaving of Wool, Silk, and Linen, with many  
“ other mechanick Works, is so considerably  
“ improved there, that the *French* can supply  
“ others with more made Stuffs, and other  
“ Manufactures, than Foreigners take off.”  
And again, pag. 270.

“ I find myself obliged to draw up a List  
“ of Manufactures and Commodities exported out of *France* into Foreign Parts, especially into *Holland*, according to a Scheme presented to the King of *France* by the Society of Merchants in *Paris*, when a new and very high Imposition was laid upon all  
“ Foreign imported Goods, and especially  
“ Manufactures, fearing lest the like Impositions would be laid by *Holland* and *England*  
“ upon all *French* Goods; and also from an  
“ Imposition



“ Imposition exhibited by the Lord Ambassa-  
 “ dor *Boreel* in 1658, to the Lords *States-*  
 “ *General* of the *United Provinces*.

“ 1. In the first Place, great Quantities of  
 “ Velvet, Plushes, Sattins, Cloth of Gold  
 “ and Silver, Taffaties, and other Silk Wares  
 “ made at *Lions* and *Tours*, which amount  
 “ to above six Millions.

*The Amount  
 of the Ex-  
 ports for  
 France to  
 other Nati-  
 ons, and  
 particularly  
 to Holland  
 in 1658.*

“ 2. In Silk, Ribbands, Laces, Passe-  
 “ ments, Buttons, Loops made about *Paris*  
 “ and *Roan*, and those Parts, to the Value  
 “ of two Millions.

“ 3. Beaver-Hats, Castors, Hats of Wool  
 “ and Hair, which are made in and about  
 “ *Paris* and *Roan*, to the Value of one Mil-  
 “ lion and a half.

“ 4. Feathers, Belts, Fans, Hoods, Masks,  
 “ gilt and wrought Looking-Glasses, Wat-  
 “ ches, and other small Wares, to the Value  
 “ of above two Millions.

“ 5. Gloves made at *Paris*, *Roan*, *Ven-*  
 “ *dosme*, and *Clermont*, to the Value of above  
 “ a Million and a half.

“ 6. Woollen Yarn spun in all Parts of  
 “ *Picardy*, worth more than one Million  
 “ and a half.

“ 7. Paper of all sorts, made in *Auvergne*,  
 “ *Poitou*, *Limousin*, *Champagne*, and *Nor-*  
 “ *mandy*, for upwards of two Millions.

“ 8. Pins and Needles made at *Paris* and  
 “ *Normandy*, and Combs of Box, Horn, and  
 “ Ivory, for a Million and a half.

“ 9. Childrens Toys, and such as *Nurem-*  
 “ *burgh* Ware, or, as the *French* call them,  
 “ *Quincallerie*, made in *Auvergne*, for up-  
 “ wards of 60,000 Florins.

“ 10.

*The British Merchant.*

“ 10. Linen, Sailcloth, made in *Britany*,  
 “ and *Normandy*, for upwards of five Milli-  
 “ ons of Florins.

“ 11. Household Goods, Beds, Matrasses,  
 “ Hangings, Coverlids, Quilts, Crespins,  
 “ Fringes, and Molets of Silk, above 5 Mil-  
 “ lions of Florins.

“ 12. Wines from *Gascony*, *Xantoigne*,  
 “ *Nantois*, and other Places, for above five  
 “ Millions.

“ 13. Brandies, Vinegar, and Cyder, for  
 “ 1,500,000 Livres.

“ 14. Saffron, Woad, Soap, Honey, Al-  
 “ monds, Olives, Capers, Prunes, Prunel-  
 “ loes, for above two Millions.

“ 15. Salt, yearly the landing of 5 or 600  
 “ Ships, exported from *Rochel*, *Brouage*,  
 “ *Maran*, the Islands of *Oleron* and *Ree*.”

At the Foot of this Account stands this  
 Marginal Note: *Of these Goods there are yearly*  
*transported above 30 Millions, whereof Holland*  
*takes off the greatest Part.*

The Question then is, what these Millions  
 shall be understood to be, whether Livres,  
 Florins or Crowns?

First, it cannot be Livres; for without the  
 last Article of Salt, the rest made above 37  
 Millions of Livres.

Secondly, it cannot be meant of Florins;  
 for that too, besides the last Article, will  
 make very little Alteration. Therefore,

Thirdly, it must be meant of *French*  
 Crowns; for the two Articles mentioned in  
 the Account of 5 Millions of Florins each,  
 and one of 600,000 Florins, and one of a  
 Million

Million and a half of Livres, being reduced to Crowns, will, with the other Articles amounting to 25 Millions, without denominating any particular Species of Coin, if they shall all be understood to be Crowns, make the whole Sum upwards of 29 Millions and a half, besides what is to be added by the last Article of Salt, and consequently make the whole Computation of above 30 Millions very just.

Fourthly, to this ought to be added, that since three of the Articles are specified to be either Livres or Florins, the rest, which are not so specified, ought to be understood of Crowns.

Fifthly, Livres are the most common Payment in *France*; yet, as appears by the Course of Exchange between that and other Countries, Crowns are the only usual Way of Exchanging.

Sixthly, the reckoning thus by Crowns, will make *Puffendorf's* fifteen Millions of Livres, and *De Wit's* five Millions, for *French Wines*, to be the very same Sum; and their Difference in Brandy to be no more than a Trifle.

This Account of *De Wit* will make the whole Exportations of *France* to be 6,750,000 *l.* Sterling, which indeed is less than they have been valued at by other Writers, and of this the abovementioned Mr. *Fortry*, cited by *Puffendorf*, makes the *French* Importations into *England* amount to 2,600,000 *l.* One Thing I ought to observe of Mr. *Fortry's* Book, that it was dedicated to King *Charles II.*, in the Year 1663, and it must have been a strange

strange Presumption in him to dedicate to his Prince an Account at random, and which had no Foundation at all to support it.

It is not possible by any *Custom-House* Accounts to find out so vast a Value of imported Goods and Merchandizes from the *French Nation*: but if I have justly proved, even against *Custom-house* Accounts, that the two Articles of *French* Linens and Wrought Silk annually imported into this Kingdom must have exceeded 1,400,000 *l. per Annum*; then a moderate Allowance for clandestine Importations in other Articles, might swell the whole to Mr. *Fortry's* 2,600,000 *l. per Ann.* And yet I can see no Reason why other Articles of Goods should not be run in upon us in as great a Proportion, to save the Duties, as well as those of Silks and Linens.

But it may be very well worth the Reader's while, to observe how it is that Mr. *Fortry* makes upon his Account, and the Authority he pretends for it. His Preamble to his Account is as follows:

*Mr. Fortry's  
Account.*

“ 1. In the next place, our Manufactures  
“ are to be consider'd, on which chiefly de-  
“ pend both the Wealth and Prosperity of this  
“ Kingdom; for by the Increase and Encour-  
“ ragement thereof, the Subjects are employ-  
“ ed in honest and industrious Callings, main-  
“ tain'd and preserv'd from Want, and those  
“ Mischiefs which commonly attend Idleness:  
“ The People furnish'd at home with all  
“ things both of Necessity and Pleasure, and  
“ by the Overplus procured from abroad,  
“ whatever for Use or Delight is wanting.

“ 2. The

“ 2. The chief Manufactures amongst us  
 “ at this Day, are only Woollen Clothes,  
 “ woollen Stuffs of all Sorts, Stockings, Rib-  
 “ bandings, and perhaps some few Silk Stuffs,  
 “ and some other small things, scarce worth  
 “ the naming; and these already nam’d, so  
 “ decay’d and adulterated, *that they are almost*  
 “ *out of Esteem both at Home and Abroad.*

“ 3. And this, because foreign Commodi-  
 “ ties are grown into so great Esteem amongst  
 “ us, *as we wholly undervalue and neglect the*  
 “ *Use of our own*; whereby that great Ex-  
 “ pence of Treasure, that is yearly wasted in  
 “ Clothing, Furnitures, and the like, re-  
 “ dounds chiefly to the Profit of Strangers,  
 “ and to the Ruin of his Majesty’s Subjects.

“ 4. And this will more plainly appear, if  
 “ we examine the vast Sums of Money *the*  
 “ *French yearly delude us of*; either by such  
 “ Commodities as we may as well have of  
 “ our own, or else by such others, as we  
 “ might as well in great part be without:  
 “ *Whereby no doubt our Treasure will soon be*  
 “ *exhausted, and the People ruin’d*, as this Par-  
 “ ticular may make appear, which not long  
 “ since was delivered in to the King of *France*,  
 “ upon a Design he had to have forbidden the  
 “ Trade between *France* and *England*, sup-  
 “ posing the Value of *English* Commodities  
 “ sent into *France*, did surmount the Value of  
 “ those that were transported hither.

“ 1. There is transported out of  
 “ *France* into *England*, great Quan-  
 “ tities of Velvets plain and wrought  
 “ Sattins plain and wrought, Cloth

“ of



“ of Gold and Silver, Armoyfins,	l.
“ and other Merchandizes of Silk,	
“ which are made at <i>Lyons</i> , and	
“ are valued to be yearly worth	150,000
“ 2. In Silks, Stuffs, Taffaties,	
“ Poudusfoys, Armoyfins, Cloths of	
“ Gold and Silver, Tabbies plain	
“ and wrought, Silk-ribbands, and	
“ other such like Silk Stuffs as are	
“ made at <i>Tours</i> , valued to be worth	
“ by the Year above — — —	300,000
“ 3. In Silk-ribbands, Galloons,	
“ Laces, and Buttons of Silk, which	
“ are made at <i>Paris</i> , <i>Rouen</i> , <i>Chai-</i>	
“ <i>mont</i> , <i>St. Estiennes</i> in <i>Forrests</i> ,	
“ by the Year about — — —	150,000
“ 4. A great Quantity of Serges,	
“ which are made at <i>Chalons</i> , <i>Char-</i>	
“ <i>tres</i> , <i>Estamines</i> , and <i>Rheimes</i> , and	
“ great Quantities of Serges made	
“ at <i>Amiens</i> , <i>Crevecœur</i> , <i>Blicourt</i> ,	
“ and other Towns in <i>Picardy</i> , by	
“ the Year above — — —	150,000
“ 5. In Beaver, Demicaftor and	
“ Felt Hats, made in the City and	
“ Suburbs of <i>Paris</i> ; besides many	
“ others made at <i>Rouen</i> , <i>Lyons</i> , and	
“ other Places, by the Year about	120,000
“ 6. In Feathers, Belts, Girdles,	
“ Hatbands, Fans, Hoods, Masks,	
“ gilt and wrought Looking-Glaf-	
“ ses, Cabinets, Watches, Pictures,	
“ Cafes, Medals, Tablets, Brace-	
“ lets, and other such like Mercery	
“ Ware, by the Year above —	150,000
“ 7. In	l.

1.	" 7. In Pins, Needles, Box-combs, Tortois-shell-combs, and such like, by the Year about	20,000
50,000	" 8. In perfumed and trimmed Gloves, that are made at <i>Paris</i> , <i>Rouen</i> , <i>Vendosme</i> , <i>Clermont</i> , and other Places, by the Year about	10,000
00,000	" 9. In Papers of all Sorts, which are made at <i>Auvergne</i> , <i>Poitou</i> , <i>Limosin</i> , <i>Champaigne</i> , and <i>Normandy</i> , by the Year, above	100,000
50,000	" 10. In all Sorts of Ironmongers Wares, that are made in <i>Forrests</i> , <i>Auvergne</i> , and other Places, by the Year, about —	40,000
50,000	" 11. In Linen Cloth that is made in <i>Britany</i> and <i>Normandy</i> , as well coarse as fine, there is transported into <i>England</i> , by the Year, above — — —	400,000
50,000	" 12. In Household-Stuff, consisting of Beds, Matresses, Coverlids, Hangings, Fringes of Silk, and other Furniture, by the Year, above —	100,000
0,000	" 13. In Wines from <i>Gascoigne</i> , <i>Nantois</i> , and other Places on the River of <i>Loire</i> , and also from <i>Bordeaux</i> , <i>Rochelle</i> , <i>Nantes</i> , <i>Rouen</i> , and other Places, are transported into <i>England</i> , by the Year, above —	600,000
0,000	" 14. In <i>Aqua Vitæ</i> , Cyder, Vinegar, Verjuice, and such like, by the Year, about —	100,000
7. In	" 15. In	

“ 15. In Saffron, Castle-Soap,  
 “ Honey, Almonds, Olives, Ca-  
 “ pers, Prunes, and such like, by  
 “ the Year, about ——— 150,000

*Imports  
 from France,*

“ 16. Besides five or six hun-  
 “ dred Vessels of Salt, loaded at  
 “ *Maron, Rochelle, Bouage*, the Isle  
 “ of *Oleron*, and Isle of *Rhee*, trans-  
 “ ported into *England* and *Holland*,  
 “ of a very great Value. So that,  
 “ as by this Calculation, it doth  
 “ appear, that the very yearly Va-  
 “ lue of such Commodities as are  
 “ transported from *France* to *Eng-*  
 “ *land* amounts to above ——— 2,600,000

*Exports  
 thither.*

“ And the Commodities exported out of  
 “ *England* into *France*, consisting chiefly of  
 “ Woollen Cloths, Serges, Knit Stockings,  
 “ Lead, Pewter, Allom, Coals, and all else,  
 “ do not amount to above Ten hundred  
 “ thousand Pounds a Year clear Loss to this  
 “ Kingdom.

*Ballance to  
 France.*

“ Whereby the King of *France*, finding it  
 “ would prove to his Loss, to forbid the Trade  
 “ with *England*, soon laid aside the Design;  
 “ however, raised the Customs of some of  
 “ our *English* Commodities, by which means  
 “ the *Vent* of those Commodities is very much less-  
 “ ened and hinder'd.

“ Hereby it may appear how insensibly our  
 “ Treasure will be exhausted, and the Nation  
 “ beggar'd, whilst we carelessly neglect our own  
 “ Interest, and Strangers abroad are diligent to  
 “ make their Advantages by us.”

In the second Paragraph, where Mr. *Forty* mentions the different sorts of Manufactures we had then in *England*, he does not so much as name those of Silk, Linen and Paper; from whence we may infer that they were, either so inconsiderable as not to be worth notice, or that we had then none at all, and that they have been since that time brought to the great Perfection they are now in. *Must they for the sake of France be destroyed?*

From the fourth, I must beg leave to observe, that it was the Intention of the *French* King, for his Country's Good, to have forbid the Trade between *France* and *England*, had he, upon this Examination, found it prejudicial to his Kingdom, as he suspected it was. Yet notwithstanding he found it, upon this View, so extremely advantageous to *France*, and so greatly prejudicial to *England*, he was so far from being satisfied with the great Gain he made, that he loaded our Commodities with farther Duties, to prevent the Consumption of them in *France*, and to encourage his own Manufactures.

We have the same reason on our side, at least, to continue the high Duties and Prohibitions on all his Commodities, that are prejudicial to our Manufactures: Especially since we seem to have lost an Opportunity of settling that Trade upon an advantageous Foot. What can we now expect from *France*? Is it to be supposed that *France* will do any thing in mere favour of our Trade, to the Prejudice of its own, that once intended wholly to have prohibited it, had it been the least detrimental thereto?

Mr.

*The British Merchant.*

Mr. *Fortry* has shew'd us, how detrimental the Trade of *France* was in the Year 1663, he gives it from the State the *French* themselves took of it, and that State must, by all impartial Men, be allow'd to be true. If this is to be contradicted by the *Mercator*, what must we believe? It is probable that the *French* at that time took an Account of the State of their Trade with all Nations. They were then considering, how to lay their Duties on Importations and Exportations equally over all Parts of their Country, and to establish a general Tariff: At this time the Duties were various in sundry, nay in most Parts of *France*, some Provinces paid more, and others less, for the same Commodities; and the Confusion was so great, that the Merchants in *France* hardly knew what Duties they were to pay, and the King's Collectors General were unable to state any exact Account of that part of the Revenue arising from the Customs. This occasion'd the settling the Tariff of 1664, which was the first general Tariff that ever was settled in *France*. I hope from hence, no body will think it improbable, that the *French* in or before the Year 1663, should take a true State of their Trade.

The confident Authors of the *Mercator*, notwithstanding, in their very first Paper, they say, it is hard to contend with a general receiv'd Notion, that the Trade to *France* was always prejudicial, yet undertake to make the contrary appear, and that it always was, and always will be beneficial. Why would they have Mankind (contrary to all known Facts) believe

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believe that that Trade always was beneficial ? I am sure I have Reason on my side to affirm directly otherwise, that the Trade to *France* always was prejudicial, and will be so again, whenever their Commodities are re-admitted by taking off the high Duties and Prohibitions.

*The Mercator's bold Assertion, That tho' the French King were Monarch of all Europe, Trade would run as it does, considered and exposed, with several other Paradoxes he has advanced in No. 126, and the Methods by which France has increased in Trade and Navigation.*

THE most remarkable Thing, and that with which I shall begin, is this, That *THO' THE KING OF FRANCE WERE TO BE MONARCH OF ALL EUROPE, TRADE WOULD RUN MUCH AS IT DOES.*

But how does he make it out, That *Trade would run much as it does ?* Why by such Paradoxes as these that follow :

“ That *France* neither before the War, nor since, has bid fair for engrossing the Trade of the World.

“ That it cannot but make the most considering Men smile to hear People talk of a Nation engrossing Trade that has no *WOOL* for their Manufactures, and but a poor deal of Shipping for their Navigation.

“ That

“ That their Situation is an effectual Bar-  
 “ gainst their so much as meddling in several  
 “ considerable Trades in the World.

“ That the Rivers of *France*, except the  
 “ *Rhose*, and its Branches, give them no  
 “ Navigation into any other Country.

“ That by her Situation, *France* is cut off  
 “ from Trade with the Heart of *Europe*.

“ That several Rivers, whose Course is out  
 “ of *France* thro’ other Countries, give those  
 “ Countries an Inlet into the Heart of *France*;  
 “ by which she is so far from engrossing the  
 “ Trade of the World, that she cannot carry  
 “ on her whole Trade within her self, with-  
 “ out exporting her Goods to Foreign Coun-  
 “ tries from one part of *France*, that they may  
 “ be re-exported into another.

“ That the Wines, Wrought Silk, Olives,  
 “ Oil, Fruit, &c. of *Gascogne*, *Languedoc*,  
 “ *Anjou*, cannot be sent to the North of *Cham-*  
 “ *pagne*, or to *Alsatia*, but by the way of  
 “ *Holland*, or by a long Voiture by Land, at  
 “ an intolerable Expence, and such as would  
 “ ruin Trade it self.

“ That, with the greatest Part of *Europe*,  
 “ *France* has no Correspondence, nor can  
 “ trade with, but by the Help of her Neigh-  
 “ bours.

“ That she cannot sail without Ships, nor  
 “ carry by Water without Sea or Rivers, or  
 “ make Manufactures without Wool.

“ That the *French* are incapable of being  
 “ considerable in Trade, because they have no  
 “ Ships for their Trade, and no Trade for  
 “ their Ships; that is none, comparatively to  
 “ the

“ the Trade and Shipping of the two Maritime Powers, much less to all *Europe*.

“ That the *Dutch* employ more Shipping in their Fisheries, than all the Shipping in *France*; and so do the *English* in the *West-India* Trade.

“ That the very Coal Trade of *England* employs more Tuns of Shipping, than the whole Amount of *French* Shipping, either at Home or Abroad.

“ That *France* has no Trade to employ such Numbers of Ships, as are employed either by the *English* or *Dutch*.

“ That the *French* were nothing at Sea during the last War; that they carried on only a Piratical War, or if they ever fitted out a Fleet, they were forc'd to lay up their Privateers; or, when these were mann'd, to lay up their Men of War.

“ That wheresoever we met their Fleets, we blow'd them out of the Sea; that they durst not meet us there, or always had the worst, and at last left us the Dominion of that Element.

“ That a Nation that dares not look us in the Face at Sea, is not likely to prevail over the World in Trade.

“ That so long as the *English* and *Dutch* are the chief in Maritime Power, they will command the Trade of the World.

“ That as long as we encourage and improve our naval Strength, this will be the Security of our Trade; this will be our Security against all Pretenders and Invaders in the World.”

These

These are a Set of very curious Maxims : But in defiance of them I must inform the *Mercator*, that the Dominion of *Spain* and the *Spanish West-Indies*, join'd to the natural Fertility and Industry of *France*, would soon enable this Prince to make himself the sole Monarch of all *Europe*, and to leave *England*, *Holland*, and all other Countries, no more Trade than what he shall please not to take from them.

First, for Dominion ; if before the last War, and the surprizing Victories of the Duke of *Marlborough*, *England*, *Holland*, *Spain*, and *Germany*, had so much Difficulty to preserve themselves against the single Power of *France*, what should we be able to do if *France* and *Spain* should come to be united under one Prince, and all the Treasures of the *Spanish West-Indies* should be made to flow into *France* ?

But the *Mercator* is in no pain for our Trade, tho' it should be broken, and tho' *England* should be made a Province to the *French Nation* ; for even then, says he, *France* cannot engross the Trade of the World.

And for what Reason ? why, first, because they have no Wool for their Manufactures ; or, as in another Place he expresses it, they cannot make Manufactures without Wool.

Now tho' I have several times told the *Mercator*, that Mutton is eaten in every Village in *Europe*, that their Sheep every where wear Fleeces, and that these Fleeces are generally manufactured in the Countries where they grow ; nay, tho' he has been often told, that

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better Wool is imported from *Spain* than ever grew in *England*; yet all this is still forgotten: Wool is the peculiar Growth of this Kingdom.

I have shewn by the Authority of Mr. *Puffendorf*, that innumerable Sorts of Woollen Stuffs and Manufactures are exported out of *France*; the Authority of Mr. *De Wit*, that Woollen Yarn spun in all Parts of *Picardy*, worth more than a Million and a half, was annually exported out of *France*; the Authority of Mr. *Fertry*, that the Serges of *Chalons*, *Chartres*, &c. and from *Amiens* and other Towns in *Picardy*, imported into *England*, were worth 150,000 *l. per Ann.* Yet all goes for nothing. *France* has no Wool, and can make no Manufactures.

But if all this were true at present, would it continue to be a Truth, if we were to become a Province to that Kingdom? Should we then be able to continue our Laws against the Exportation of Wool? No certainly, we should be obliged to obey our Masters, and to grant a Bounty on the Exportation of our Wool, as we do on our Corn, that *France* might have it cheaper than our People.

But lastly, if there were no Wool in *France*, why must *France* be said to have no Manufactures? Are there none but Woollen Manufactures? Are not Silks, Linen, Paper, and divers other things Manufactures? and are not the Exportations out of *France* of these things superior to our whole Exportations of the Woollen Manufacture? But if *France* were to have the Dominion over *England*, she would



not suffer the Exportation of *English*, any more than we do of *Irish* Woollen Manufactures.

The next thing is, that the Situation of *France* is inconsistent with engrossing the Trade of *Europe*, quite contrary to *Puffendorf*, who places it in the Center of *Europe*, and makes the Carriage of their Goods so much easier to other Countries.

But, it seems, the Rivers of *France* let other Countries into the Heart of *France*, but not *France* into other Countries: These are strange Rivers indeed! I must desire the Merchant to explain them; for my own part, I think the *Soame*, the *Seine*, the *Loire*, the *Rhofne*, are an Outlet for the Goods of *France* to other Countries, as much as the *Thames* for *England*. And the *Maese*, the *Rhine*, and the *Moselle*, are as much Rivers for the Carriage of *French* Goods to *Holland* and *Germany*, as for bringing back the Goods of those Countries into *France*. But 'tis ridiculous to spend Words in proving that 'tis Light at Noon-day.

But one of the merriest things (if it were possible to be merry when such Men as these would persuade us that our Trade may be safe under the absolute Power of *France*) is, that *France* is not able to convey her Goods from one Part of that Country to another, but either through *Holland*, or by a chargeable Land Carriage. May not the Goods of *Gascogne*, *Anjou*, or *Languedoc*, be carried up the *Seine*, and the Branches that run into that River, to the Neighbourhood of *Alsace* and *Champagne*?

And will the little Land Carriage then be so very chargeable? Or will the Conveyance by the way of *Holland*, the Duties in and out of that Country, and the several Tolls upon the *Maese* and the *Rhine*, be less Expence? Or is the Land Carriage for Silk, Linen, and Paper, so very dear? Yet this round about way must be taken to save it: But nothing is too absurd for the *Mercator*.

With what Face can he say, that *France* has no Outlets for other Countries, that has such Rivers running into the Ocean or *Mediterranean*? Has one of the most fertile Countries no Product to send abroad? one of the most ingenious and polite People no Manufactures for Foreign Markets? We have found otherwise to our Cost.

But in the last Place, this Man says the *French* have no Shipping for their Manufactures. This indeed was formerly the Case, but we have little Reason to think it will ever be so again. They have of late Years made wonderful Application to the Sea; they have met the united Fleets of *England* and *Holland*, and come off without any great Disadvantage. If they quitted the Sea during the last War, it must be own'd that they did it to bring their whole Strength to bear against the Confederate Army under the Duke of *Marlborough*: God knows whether we may ever have another Duke of *Marlborough*; I hope we shall never want one: But how the *French* can ever want either Shipping or Seamen, that have more Goods to export in Bulk than any other single Nation in the World, and that have such a Nursery for

Seamen yielded up to them as Cape *Breton*, is past my Reason to imagine.

The *Mercator*, No. 128. is grown outrageous upon my having affirmed, That it would be possible for *France* to engross the Trade of the World, if we should become a Province to that Kingdom. The very Supposition of such a thing has put him into the greatest Disorder imaginable. He has my free Consent to be as angry as he pleases with this Supposition, for it is his own; his Words, No. 126. are, *FOR WERE THE KING OF FRANCE MONARCH OF ALL EUROPE, he could not do it, (i. e. engross the whole Trade) he could not sail without Ships, carry by Water without Sea or Rivers; he could not make Manufactures without Wool; he might have the Dominion of the Country, BUT THE TRADE WOULD RUN MUCH AS IT DOES.*

Certainly it was very lawful for me to confute this extravagant Paradox; but if the Author of that Paper had just Reason to believe his Readers would be startled at his Assertion, I might justly expect the Rage he has poured out for exposing it to them in so clear a View as I have done; yet I must declare my Hopes, that we shall not become a Province to the *French Nation*, tho' I said before, *That GOD KNOWS whether we may ever have another Duke of Marlborough*; and I must agree with the *Mercator* in this, That *WE KNOW that God is able to deliver us wheicher we have or no.*

But observe the *Mercator's* Reasons why the *French* cannot engross the Trade of *Europe*,  
even

even tho' we were to become a *French Province*; they cannot sail without Ships; they cannot carry by *Water* without *Sea* or *Rivers*; they cannot make *Manufactures* without *Wool*. His Arguments of sailing without Ships, and making *Manufactures* without *Wool*, are fully answered; *France* has Ships sufficient for her Trade, and can increase them as her Trade increases. She is not deprived of the Power of doing this by the late Treaties; and as for making *Manufactures* without *Wool*, *France* has *Wool* of her own Growth; I have given the *Mercator* some Reasons to believe it, I shall give him other Reasons now. In the Tariff of 1664, among the Duties of Exportation out of *France*, besides the Duties of exported *Wool*, there is a Duty of 4 Sols *per Head* upon all *Yews* that are exported. *France* exacts so small a Duty upon exported *Yews*, and yet shall it be said that Nation has no *Wooll*?

But since he has not only asserted this, but that *France* by her very Situation, and for want of Rivers and Water Carriage, is incapable of much Trade; and since I have mentioned the Tariff of 1664, I think it will not be amiss to give him an Extract out of the *Introduction* to that Tariff, which in the French *Book of Rates* lately translated into *English*, begins pag. 10. in the following Words.

“ But finding that these Abatements would only lessen the present Miseries, and give our People the Opportunity to live with more ease, but did not tend to bring in *Wealth* from abroad, and that Trade alone is capable of bringing this to pass; for this purpose

*The Encouragement the French King has given to Trade and Navigation.*

“ pose we have therefore from the beginning  
 “ apply’d ourselves to the proper Means to  
 “ support, encourage and increase the same,  
 “ and to give all possible Ease to our Subjects  
 “ therein : And in order thereunto have caus-  
 “ ed a general Inquisition to be made in all  
 “ the Tolls which are raised upon all the Ri-  
 “ vers in our Kingdom, which any way hin-  
 “ der the Commerce, or the transporting  
 “ Goods and Merchandizes from Place to  
 “ Place, and having enquired into all the Pre-  
 “ tences every where made for the raising and  
 “ levying the said Tolls, we have suppressed  
 “ so many of them, that the *Navigation of our*  
 “ *Rivers is thereby made extraordinary easy.* At  
 “ the same time we have established Commis-  
 “ saries in all our Provinces, to examine the  
 “ Dues of all our Communities or Corporati-  
 “ ons ; upon which we have made such Regu-  
 “ lations as would reduce the same for the  
 “ present, and afterwards entirely discharge  
 “ them : And in the mean time we have gi-  
 “ ven a general Liberty of Trade to all Peo-  
 “ ple, which they had been deprived of by  
 “ the Violences aforesaid.——After this  
 “ we have endeavoured to cause all our *Bridges,*  
 “ *Causeways, Moles, Banks, Peers, and other*  
 “ *publick Buildings to be repaired ;* the bad  
 “ Condition whereof have been a great Hin-  
 “ drance to Trade, and to the carrying of  
 “ Merchandize from Place to Place. Also  
 “ we have powerfully established the Safety  
 “ and Liberty of the Highways, appointing  
 “ severe Punishments to Highway-men, and  
 “ obliging the Provosts of our Cousins the Mar-  
 “ shals



“ shals of *France* to a careful discharge of their  
“ Office. And after having thus done every  
“ thing that was in our Power to restore  
“ Trade within the Kingdom, we have ap-  
“ ply’d the greatest of our Care for the encourag-  
“ ing Navigation and Commerce also without, as  
“ the only Means to enrich our Subjects. To  
“ this end, having found by Experience that  
“ Strangers had made themselves Masters of all  
“ the Trade by Sea, nay even of the Coast-  
“ ing Trade from Port to Port of our own  
“ Kingdom; and yet the small Number of Ships  
“ which remained in the possession of our Sub-  
“ jects were every day taken just at our own  
“ doors, as well in the *Levant* Seas as in the  
“ *Western* Ocean; we have established the Im-  
“ position of 50 Sols per Ton on the Freight of  
“ all Strangers Ships, at the same time discharg-  
“ ing those of our own Subjects; encouraging  
“ them thereby to build and fit out sufficient  
“ Numbers of Ships for their Coasting Trade:  
“ At the same time we have put to Sea so con-  
“ siderable a Fleet, both of Ships and Gallies,  
“ as should oblige the Coasters of *Barbary* to  
“ keep their Ports and Places of Retreat. And  
“ the better to suppress all manner of Piracy,  
“ we have resolved to attack them in their  
“ Country; to the end, that having fortified  
“ some considerable Ports, we might be able  
“ to keep the same in possession.

“ At the same time, we have secured the  
“ Navigation of our Subjects against all other  
“ Pirates, by allowing them Convoys of our  
“ Men of War. We have fortified and aug-  
“ mented the *French* Colonies settled in Ca-

“ *nada*, and the Islands of *America*, by having  
 “ sent our Ships thither; making them ac-  
 “ knowledge our Authority, by settling of  
 “ Courts of Justice among them. Also we  
 “ have laid the Foundation for the Settlement  
 “ of our *East-India* and *West-India* Companies,  
 “ which are now set up in our Kingdom, to  
 “ our entire Satisfaction.

“ But altho’ all these great things are very  
 “ much to our Satisfaction, yet the said Love  
 “ which we have for our People, as it is eve-  
 “ ry day stirring us up to forget what is past,  
 “ and look forward to what may further be  
 “ done, to the Increase of their Happiness;  
 “ we have resolved to *erect a Council of Trade*,  
 “ to meet in our Presence, and to employ to  
 “ that end one of the Councils of the Finan-  
 “ ces, which for that Purpose we shall dissolve:  
 “ In which Council of Trade shall be consi-  
 “ dered all the Means possible *for the Increase*  
 “ *and Encouragement of Trade both within and*  
 “ *without our Kingdom*; and also OF MA-  
 “ NUFACTURES, which having been hap-  
 “ pily performed in the first Day of their  
 “ Meeting, we have made known to all our  
 “ Companies, as well Sovereign as Inferior,  
 “ to all Governours of Provinces, and their  
 “ Intendants, how tender a regard we have to  
 “ the Prosperity of the said Commerce, with  
 “ Orders to them to employ all that Authority  
 “ which we have committed to them, for the  
 “ Protection of the Merchants, and to do Ju-  
 “ stice to them, even with preference to o-  
 “ thers, that they may not be injured or chea-  
 “ ted, or any way discouraged in their Busi-  
 “ ness.

“ nefs. And we have by Circular Letters in-  
“ vited the Merchants to address themselves  
“ directly to us, upon all Occasions, and  
“ to depute some one of their Body near our  
“ Person, to present to us their Memorials and  
“ Petitions; and in case of Difficulty, we  
“ have appointed a Person to receive all their  
“ Petitions, and solicit for them at our Ex-  
“ pence. And we have ordained there shall  
“ always be a House appointed for that pur-  
“ pose. We have also resolved to employ a  
“ *Million of Livres yearly for the Settling of*  
“ *Manufactures, and the Increase of Navigati-*  
“ *on.* But as the most effectual Means for  
“ the restoring of Trade, is the lessening and  
“ regulating the Duties upon Goods and Mer-  
“ chandizes coming in and going out of the  
“ Kingdom, we have appointed our Trusty  
“ and well-beloved the *Sieur Colbert*, Coun-  
“ sellor in our Royal Council, and Intendant  
“ in our Finances, &c.

Has the *French King* taken such Care to  
render easy the Navigation of his Rivers? Has  
he applied the greatest of his Care for the encour-  
aging Navigation also without? Has he laid  
such Impositions on Strangers Ships, discharging  
at the same time those of his own Subjects? Has  
he been at the Charge of Convoys, to secure the  
Navigation of his Subjects against Pirates? Has  
he erected a Council of Trade for the Increase and  
Encouragement of Trade both within and without  
his Kingdom, and also of Manufactures? Has  
he employed a *Million of Livres yearly for the set-  
tling of Manufactures, and the Increase of Navi-*  
gation

gation? And does the *Mercator* go on to tell us that *France* is incapable of Trade or Navigation?

*The convenient Water-Carriage they have in France.*

There is not a Country situate more than *France* in the Center of all *Europe*? And does her Situation then disqualify her for increasing her Trade and Navigation? Does she want an Outlet to the Sea, when she has at least 700 Miles of Coast to the Ocean, and between two and three hundred to the *Mediterranean*? Or does she want an Inland Navigation from the very Heart of that Country to the Coast? I have the Map of *France* lying before me at this very time and besides numberless other Rivers emptying themselves on the Coast, when I view the *Seine*, the *Loire*, and the *Garone* in the Ocean, and the *Rhone* in the *Mediterranean*, and the innumerable Branches running into those Rivers, I am not able to see a Town or City of any Note in all *France*, at any considerable distance from Navigation, except in the Province of *Languedoc*; and the Want there has been supplied by a Royal Canal, at the Cost of the *French* King, by which he has made a Communication by Water thro' the very Heart of his Country between the Ocean and the *Mediterranean*. I cannot conceive of any Country how it can be rendered, either by Art or Nature, more capable of Navigation. Can *France* send from all Parts by Water-Carriage to the Ocean, or the *Mediterranean*, her Product or Manufactures, which are too much for the Consumption of her own People, and by the same Conveyance

*The Advantage of Water-Carriage in France by a Canal.*

veyance back again, receive things of foreign Growth, which are useful for her Manufactures? And then is she not capable of performing the whole Exportation and Importation between her self and other Countries, in Shipping of her own? I desire then this Man will explain to his Readers what it is he means, when he tells them, that the *French* cannot carry by Water without Sea or Rivers: She has both Sea and Rivers sufficient for her Water-Carriage; and CAPE BRETON IS YIELDED TO HER, which will prove a perpetual Nursery for Seamen.

I hope there is no manner of Danger of our ever becoming a Province to *France*; but let us continue as Independent as we can desire, I believe I have said enough to demonstrate, that there is no want of Sea or Rivers in that Nation, to render her considerable in Commerce or Navigation. We have seen and felt, that her Increase in both in this last Age, has been prodigious by the wise Maxims of her present King. But he judged very rightly, as is expressed in the Extract I have mentioned, that Trade was the only Way of bringing in Wealth from Abroad.

*Extract*



*Extracts of two Edicts of the French King,  
concerning the Paper Manufacture.*

*Paper is made in France for less than half  
the Price it is in England, and why it is.*

*A Demonstration that the French Manufac-  
turers work cheaper than the English, with  
respect to the Quantity and Quality of their  
Work.*

*If the French Bill of Commerce should pass,  
the English Paper Manufacture must be  
ruined.*

*An Essay proving the Value of Paper hereto-  
fore annually imported from France, either  
fairly or clandestinely.*

*ARRET of the King's Council, prohibiting  
the Exportation of old Linen, old Clothes,  
Rags, &c. 1697.*

“ **T**HE King having been informed,  
“ That the Exporting old Linen, old  
“ Clothes, Rags, &c. is a very considerable  
“ Prejudice to the Manufactures of Paper and  
“ Cards of this Kingdom, had ordained, by a  
“ former Arret of the 28th of January, 1697,  
“ That the said Goods should pay 12 Livres  
“ per hundred Weight upon their Exportation,  
“ instead of 6 Livres per hundred Weight,  
“ payable by the Tariff of 1664 : but his said  
“ Majesty having since that being informed,  
“ That notwithstanding double Duty, divers  
“ particular Merchants continue to export  
“ such great Quantities out of the Kingdom,  
“ as would cause a Scarcity thereof to the  
“ Manu-

“Manufacturers in the Provinces aforesaid ;  
“for Remedy whereof his Majesty ordains,  
“and hereby makes an exprefs Prohibition to  
“all Persons, of what Rank or Condition so-  
“ever, to export out of the Kingdom, with-  
“out his Permission, any old Linen, old  
“Clothes, or Rags, from the Day of the Pub-  
“lication hereof, upon Pain of Confiscation,  
“and three thousand Livres Fine, of which  
“the third part to the Informer.

*Done at Versailles,*

*May 29. 1697.*

*Signed,*

*Du Jardin.*

*ARRÊT of the King's Council, taking off  
the Duties of Exportation upon all Cloth of  
and Silver, and Silks, and upon Paper,  
Past-board and Cards ; and moderating the  
Duties upon Stuffs of Wool, and Thred Li-  
nen-Cloth, and other Merchandizes, Decem-  
ber 24. 1701.*

“**L**ikewise his Majesty ordains, That for  
“Paper of all sorts, White, Brown,  
“Blue, and all other Colours ; Books print-  
“ed, bound, and not bound ; Cards, Past-  
“boards, and Cards to play with, going out  
“of this Kingdom into foreign Parts, there  
“shall not be paid any Duties at all.

*Done at Versailles,*

*Decem. 24. 1701. Sign'd,*

*Philippeaux.*

*By*

## The British Merchant.

By these two Abstracts of the *French King's* Arrets it may be perceived how careful he is of his Manufactures in general, and of that of Paper in particular.

*The Pro-  
vinces in  
France  
where Pa-  
per is made.*

*French Pa-  
per import-  
ed under  
the Duties  
of Cent. per  
Cent. on the  
prime Cost.*

*A Compari-  
son between  
the Food of  
the French  
& English  
Manufac-  
turers.*

There are seven Provinces in *France* where the Manufacture of Paper is settled, viz. *Cham-  
paine, Normandy, Brittany, Augoumois, Peri-  
gord, Limousin* and *Auvergne*; the three last Provinces are full of large Forests of Chesnut Trees, and abound so much in that kind of Fruit, that the common People have no other Food all the Year round, and no other Drink but Water; so that they can afford their Work very cheap, and do it next to nothing, except some of the upper Workmen, who earn a small Salary by the Week. This is so true, that considerable Parcels of Paper were imported lately from thence, altho' the Duties paid here exceed one hundred *per Cent.* on the first Cost, notwithstanding which the *French* Merchants are able to undersell us; and some of them do brag, that as soon as the Parliament is up, they will import great Quantities, whether the high Duties be taken off or no; but being in hopes to succeed in having them taken off, they forbear a-while importing, to see the Event, and to save, if they can, the 45 *per Cent.* Duty which is now paid upon *French* more than upon any other Foreign Paper; which, if it should happen, would prove the entire Ruin of the Paper Manufacture of this Kingdom.

If Chesnuts, and such-like spontaneous Productions of the Earth, for which we are chiefly beholden to Nature, very little to the Labour of Man, are the greatest part of the Subsistence of

of the People employ'd in the Paper Manufacture of *France*, there can be little doubt of their living at less Wages than our *English* labouring People : Even my Adversary would not have the Confidence to assert that a Bellyfull of Chestnuts, which grow without the Labour of Man, shall cost as much as a Bellyfull of Bread, which pays so much to the Ploughman, the Seedsman, the Reaper, the Thresher, the Miller, the Baker, and innumerable other Labourers, who have bestow'd some Work upon every Loaf that was ever eaten. Our People therefore are subsisted at a great Charge, and the *French* Manufacturers for almost nothing.

But for all this, he will not yield that the *French* can work cheaper : *That they may* (says he, No. 67.) *work a Day for less Money than an Englishman, may be true ; that they may live on an Onion and a Draught of Water, a Bunch of Grapes, and a Piece of Bread, while the English Workman has his Beef and his Pudding, this may be true : But there is a great Difference between working a Day, and doing a DAY's Work ; and that without boasting of our own, he undertakes to say, that tho' other People will work a Day for less Money than the English, no Nation in the World will DO SO MUCH in a Day as the English, or do THAT WORK SO WELL. And he to avoid being partial in favour of his own Country, appeals for the Truth of it to the very Foreigners themselves that live among us.*

He acknowledges here that the *English* Workman must have *HIS BEEF* and *HIS PUDDING*, while he is contented to allow  
the

the *French* Manufacturer only an *Onion* and a *Draught of Water*, a *Bunch of Grapes*, and a *Piece of Bread*, which is certainly the cheaper Diet of the two ; and yet as cheap as it is, the People employ'd in their Paper Manufacture, are very few of them so well fed : Their chief Diet is *Chefnuts*, which is not quite so dear as what we give our *Hogs*. Here then we have his Confession, that the Subsistence of the People in *France* is much cheaper than it is in *England* ; and yet if that of their Paper Manufacturers is chiefly *Chefnuts*, it is still a great deal cheaper than he has acknowledged : Without having recourse to the Reduction of their Coin in *France*, and the cheaper Wages there upon that account, there can be no question that a Bushel of *Chefnuts* is to be purchas'd for less Silver than a Bushel of Bread Corn.

But then the *Mercator* urges, that there is great Difference between *working a Day* and doing a *Day's Work*, between working for less *Daily Wages*, and doing as much *Daily Work* ; and he undertakes to say, That no Nation in the World will do so much Work in a Day, or do that Work so well ; and for the Truth of this, he appeals to the *Foreigners themselves that live among us*. I accept of his Appeal, and will be content to abide by their Determination.

I have had the Curiosity to enquire into the Paper Manufacture, and I find that five Pair of Hands are employ'd at every Fat ; that so many Hands are necessary in *England*, and that more cannot be used in *France*. I am taught too by our own Manufacturers, that they



they do not dispatch here above eight Reams of Paper in a Day at a single Fat, and that they dispatch above nine in *France* with the same Number of Hands; and yet I believe there is not any Man in *England* so hardy as to affirm, that either ours, or indeed any Paper in the World, exceeds that of *France*.

I would not be thought to affirm, that a *Frenchman*, with his Bellyfull of Chestnuts, or with this Man's *Onion* and a *Draught of Water*, with his *Piece of Bread*, and a *Bunch of Grapes*, can have as much Strength as an *Englishman* with his *Beef and Pudding*: but there is a Slight of Hand in almost every Manufacture that is much more necessary than Strength; and 'tis plain, that we are not yet arrived at that Slight, if a Fat with five Pair of Hands, in *France*, is able to work off more Reams of Paper than the same Number of Hands can do in *England*.

If the *French* Manufacturers can live on Chestnuts, possibly not a fourth part of the Price of our *English* Diet, surely they may be able to work for a third part of the daily Wages that are given in *England*. And if with all this the same Number of Hands can dispatch more Reams of Paper in a Day than can be done in *England*, it is not to be wondered at, that with the present Duties exceeding *Cent. per Cent.* on *French* Paper, the *French* are nevertheless able to undersell our *English* Manufacturers. But their very underselling of us, under the present Load of Duties, is another Demonstration, that the *French*  
work

work more and better Paper, for less Wages, than the Paper-makers in this Kingdom.

What then must be the Consequence, if 45 *per Cent.* of the present Duties on *French* Paper should be taken off, pursuant to the late Treaty of Commerce? Then there is an End of our *English* Manufacture.

Before the Revolution, there was hardly any other Paper made in *England* than brown; but the War ensuing, and Duties being laid from time to time on foreign Paper, it gave such Encouragement to the Paper-makers, that most of them begun to make white Paper fit for writing and printing; and they have brought it by degrees to so great Perfection both for Quantity and Goodness, that they make now near two Thirds of what is consum'd in *Great Britain*; and several of them make it as white and as well bearing as any comes from abroad, as Sir *William Humphreys*, Mr. *Baskett*, and several others, can witness. And I make no doubt, if further Encouragement was given them, by taking off the 12 *per Cent.* Excise, which was lately laid upon home-made Paper, and which by the Multitude of Officers brings in little or nothing to the Queen, and the said 12 *per Cent.* (for an Equivalent to the Fund) was laid upon Outlandish Paper, but that they could in a little time make enough to supply all the Occasions of the Nation, there being above 120 Fats within 60 Miles of *London*, besides several more in *Yorkshire* and *Scotland*, which all (more or less) make white Paper, and will undoubtedly go on daily improving and increasing

Number of  
Paper Fats  
in Great  
Britain,

creasing that useful Manufacture, if the present high Duties be kept on *French* Paper, being that which they dread most, by reason of its extraordinary Cheapness.

The necessity of having writing and printing Paper is well known to every body ; but it will not perhaps be amiss to make it appear how profitable and beneficial that Manufacture is to *Great-Britain*.

*The Benefit  
of the Paper  
Manufacture,  
and  
the way to  
make Paper.*

Rags are the main Ingredient Paper is made of, which were formerly cast away, and thrown to the Dunghill, but are now gathered with great Care by poor People, who get honestly their Livelihood by it, and would otherwise beg their Bread : This employs abundance of Hands. When these Rags are gathered, they are brought to the Mill, and this still employs more Hands. After they are in the Mill, they let them lie a while till they are sufficiently mellow or rotten, and then put them into the Tubs under the Hammers, to be beaten into a kind of Jelly or white Substance looking like Milk ; and being thence carried into the Fat, the chief Workman, upon a Pair of Molds for that Purpose, takes up the Sheets or Water Leaves, (of which he makes 4 or 5000 more or less, according to the Size and Weight of the Paper.) These Water Leaves, after being well pressed between two Felts, and the Water well drained out, are carried up into the Garrets or drying Rooms, and there hung upon a Multitude of Ropes to dry : and from thence being brought down again into the sizing Room, a Liquor is there prepared for sizing or gumming every Sheet ; the Paper which is for printing

ing being but moderately siz'd, but that which is for writing nicely, that it may bear Ink.

This Paper, after sizing, is a second time press'd, and carried up into the Garrets, and hung upon the Ropes to dry once more; and then, with a great deal of Care, and hard Labour, press'd a third, a fourth, and a fifth time, to make it smooth and of a good Grain; and then put up into Quires and Reams.

Now considering how many Hands every individual Sheet of Paper goeth thro' before it is brought to Perfection, 'tis plainly perceived that a great Number of People is employ'd in each Mill: then those who gather the Rags up and down in all the Counties of *England*, and bring them to the Mills; those who make the Felts, which takes up a good Quantity of Wool, being very thick, and for every Sheet of Paper, a Piece of Felt of the same Size, or a little larger; the Rope-makers, the Mould-makers, the Carpenters, Wheel-wrights, Timber-Merchants, Smiths, (for this Work consumes a great deal of Iron, by the Hammers bearing perpetually upon the Iron Plates) and several other Trades, who depend upon the building and keeping the Mills in repair; those who sell Allum, Copperas, Cuttings and Parings of Gloves, Parchment and Leather; all which are used in the sizing or gumming of Paper: All these Things considered, it cannot be denied, but a vast many People get their Livelihood, or receive a Benefit, by this useful and ingenious Manufacture.

There is still one farther Use I would make of this Information, which I have received from

from the Paper Manufacturers of this Kingdom; and that is, to compute by it, as I have done in the Articles of Linen and wroughtSilk, the Value of Paper which was heretofore annually imported from the *French Nation*.

Upon the Interruption of our *French Commerce*, we have increased our Importation of Paper from other Countries, and the Manufacture of this Commodity in *Great Britain*. Indeed the Manufacture of white Paper is almost entirely new in this Kingdom.

If it shall be said we are not richer now than we were formerly, and if our late Excises on Paper make it credible that our Consumption of it is not greater than before our first War with *France*, then whatsoever we have increased in this Manufacture at home, or in the Importation of it from other Countries, is so much lost to *France*, then the whole Quantity of this Increase was annually imported from that Kingdom.

One hundred and twenty Fats within 60 M. of *London* for white Paper, at 8 Reams a day, must produce near 300,000 Reams per Ann. and if those of *Yorkshire* and *Scotland*, together with the Increase of our Importations from *Italy* and *Holland*, shall be allowed to produce above 100,000 Reams more for the Consumption of this Kingdom, (as they certainly do, if the whole Paper Manufacture of *Britain* is but two Thirds of our whole Consumption) the whole Quantity made in this Kingdom, or imported from other Countries instead of *French* Paper, will amount to 400,000 Reams per Annum: then such therefore must have been our annual

*The State of the Paper Manufacture in Great Britain, and the Quantity made here.*



*And the  
Value of it.*

annual Importation from *France*, and the Value of this, at 5 s. per Ream, must have amounted to 100,000 l. per Annum.

Our *Custom-house* Accounts then may tell us the Value of 20 or 30 or 40,000 l. per annum, was annually imported from *France*, the rest of the Sum of 100,000 l. per Annum must be made up by clandestine Importations.

*A Letter, shewing by the Authority of the Review, (writ by the Author of the Merchant) that the Ballance of the French Trade was formerly against England: with some Reflections upon several Passages in that Author.*

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

“ YOU have lately given us the Authority of *Puffendorf*, *De Wit*, and *Fortry*, for the vast Extent of the *French Trade* and Manufactures. I have sent you here the Words of a living Author upon the same Subject, and the vast Ballance *France* formerly had against *England*. My Author, I believe, would take it ill not to be thought as considerable as any of the Persons you have cited; and for my own part, I think he has treated this as well as ever he did any other Subject. My Author is the *Review*, and his Words are as follow:

Review, No. 82. Saturday Decem. 16. 1740.

“ It lies before us to consider our Trade, as  
“ it stands with relation to *France*.

“ It is apparent that, except as hereafter  
“ excepted, *our Trade with France*, suppose  
“ the War over, *stands on a better Foot than e-*  
“ *ver it did these last 50 Years, or indeed ever*  
“ *before.*

“ *French Fashions, French Wine, and French*  
“ *\_\_\_\_\_* grew up so much in the Reign of  
“ King *Charles* the Second, that in spite of all  
“ the *English* Goods we could vend in *France*,  
“ we traded with them to our Loss, and the  
“ Ballance run 800,000 *l. per Annum* against  
“ *us*, which we were obliged to make good by  
“ Bills.

“ I desire to lay this Case a little open as  
“ short as possible, and be particular in the  
“ Goods we sent thither, and received from  
“ thence, because it will be very informing to  
“ the Schemes I shall have occasion to draw.

We sent to *France* in chief,

Woollen Manufactures, as,

Cloth,  
Stockings,  
Hats, &c.

Leather,

Tin,

Sugars,

Tobaccos,

Wrought Iron,

Herrings,

Coals,

Lead,

*East-India* Goods,

Copperas,

Wool in abundance.

Sorts of  
Goods ex-  
ported to  
*France*.

We

And im-  
ported from  
it.

We received from thence,

Salt,	Paper,	
Wine,	Rozin,	
Brandies,	Pruans,	
Linens,	Pickles,	
Wrought Silks,	Perfumes,	
Gloves,	Preserves,	and num-
Hats,	berless	nameless
Glass,	Toys.	

Their Wine  
and Bran-  
dies alone  
exceeded our  
Exports.

“ The Gentlemen that have been conver-  
“ sant in Trade, know very well, that the  
“ *Wines and Brandies of France* so overpowered  
“ *all our Exports* thither, that there was no  
“ Proportion between the Particulars on ei-  
“ ther Side, but that any single Article of Li-  
“ quids demanded more Money than *all our*  
“ *Trade* to them could pay for.

“ Thus stood the State of our Trade to  
“ *France* when the late War began; and let  
“ any Man, that says *France* has not lost by  
“ the War, compare the State of their Trade  
“ to *England*, as it was at the end of the last  
“ War, and will be at the end of this (if e-  
“ ver it shall end) and they will join with me  
“ in this, that *France* has an irreparable Loss,  
“ which she shall feel in Trade for 50 Years,  
“ and perhaps ever after the War; a Loss that  
“ has so turned the Scale of Trade against  
“ her, that as she *traded* with us 800,000 L.  
“ *per Annum* to her Gain before, she must  
“ *trade* as much to her Loss, which is above  
“ Million and a half difference every Year.

“ genera

“ general Ballance of Trade. I shall proceed  
“ to make this plain in the next Paper.

“ Again, *Review* Number 86. *Saturday*  
“ Decemb. 30. 1704.

“ I am upon the Article of *our Trade with*  
“ France, or rather *their Trade with us*. I  
“ have noted how at the beginning of the Rup-  
“ ture between the Kingdoms, the *French*  
“ Trade to *England* was carry'd vastly to their  
“ Gain and our Loss, by reason of the prodig-  
“ ious Export of their Liquids, Silks, &c.

“ Before I go on farther with the Particu-  
“ lars of the present State of this Trade, I  
“ am to shew how it is fallen from being so  
“ much to their Advantage, to its being now  
“ as much to ours; and here 'tis necessary to  
“ examine our own Affairs a little. A Multi-  
“ tude of *French* Refugees thronging into this  
“ Nation, on Account of Religion, or Pretence  
“ of Religion, (let the Uncharitable judge which  
“ way they please) these People being, gene-  
“ rally speaking, all Mechanicks, fell imme-  
“ diately to Trade, in order to get Bread, some  
“ to one Employment, some to another: As a  
“ great many of them fell upon our Woollen  
“ Trade, so they generally inclined to work  
“ our Wool into such kind of Goods as they  
“ had been accustomed to work in their own  
“ Countries, rather than to fall into our Ma-  
“ nufactures, which they did not understand.  
“ From hence it appears, that among our  
“ Combers, Wool-Spinners, Broad Cloth or  
“ Serge-makers, you have few or no *French*.

“ The first Effort of the *French* Refugees,  
“ was our thin *black Gapes*, a Manufacture  
VOL. II. M “ purely

*Black  
Crapes  
brought in  
by French  
Refugees.*

“ *purely their own* ; and I refer to the Memo-  
 “ *ry of People conversant in Trade*, how u-  
 “ *niversally it pleased our People* ; so that the  
 “ *least Quantity of Wool that ever was heard*  
 “ *of in a Garment, supplying the room of a*  
 “ *Suit of Cloth, it became a general Habit,*  
 “ *and the Ladies of the best Quality began to*  
 “ *appear in a Gown and Petty-Coat under 25*  
 “ *Shillings, till the Meanness of the Price giv-*  
 “ *ing every Servant an Opportunity to be as*  
 “ *fine as her Mistress, it grew a little obso-*  
 “ *lete among the Women, then the Men fell*  
 “ *into it.*

*Other Ma-  
nufactures  
brought in  
by them,  
that have  
sunk our Im-  
ports from  
France in  
five great  
Articles.*

“ *And again, in the same Review* : As the  
 “ *French Refugees apply'd themselves to Indus-*  
 “ *try and Labour, they not only introduced*  
 “ *Alterations in our Manufactures, by setting*  
 “ *up such sorts of Woollen Goods as were before*  
 “ *made in France, but as in like Cases it al-*  
 “ *ways happened, they began to erect such*  
 “ *French Manufactures as we used to have in*  
 “ *great Quantities from them, such as Hats,*  
 “ *Glass, Paper, Lustrings, Canvas, Sail-*  
 “ *Cloths, and several sorts of Wrought Silks*  
 “ *The two first of these we have absolutely*  
 “ *mastered, and brought them to such a Per-*  
 “ *fection, as that in open Trade they are con-*  
 “ *tent to receive them from us* ; and the other  
 “ *are in a great measure improv'd, and in a*  
 “ *prospect of Increase.*

“ *By this Method, five exceeding great*  
 “ *Articles of our Import from thence are less-*  
 “ *ened, if not quite sunk* ; and here those  
 “ *Gentlemen who cry out our Manufactures*  
 “ *sink, and are made abroad, would do well*



“ to consider, whether we do not daily increase in making other Manufactures, as well as in losing some Quantities of our own: but these flegmatick Gentlemen are for doing any Country Justice but their own.

“ The Manufacture of Glass and Hats we have absolutely and entirely made our own, as is before noted; and I think I need not spend my own Time, or the Readers, to tell them, *That Lustrings or plain black Silks, Paper, and Sail-Cloth*, are wonderfully improved, vast Quantities of them made in *England*, and great Numbers of our Poor daily employed in them. If any Man requires me to descend to Particulars, I can inform them of near 50 white Paper-Mills, which make now extraordinary good Paper for the Press and for the Pen, which within these few Years was not to be found in this Nation. *The Lustring-Company can answer for the Silks, and the Multitude of Looms at work on Canvas and Sail-Cloth* will prove much of the other.

*Glass, Hats, Lustrings, Paper, Sail-Cloth, and Canvas.*

“ I wave here what Use I could make of this matter with respect to the supplying our People with Manufactures, obtained to this Nation by Encroachment from our Neighbours, as a thing remote from the Purpose: But thus far it answers the present Affairs; these Articles have sunk exceedingly our Imports of Goods from France.

“ But this was not all; as soon as the first War broke out, the strict *Prohibition of Wines and Brandies from France*, and more

Prohibitions  
of French  
Wine and  
Brandy, and  
the high  
Duties on  
those taken  
by Prize,  
sunk French  
Importati-  
ons.

“ particularly the *high Duties* on those taken  
“ by *Prize*, but a check to the vast Importa-  
“ tions from thence; and that War holding  
“ so exceeding long, the *Portugal* Merchants  
“ soon enlarged their Trade, and filled the  
“ whole Nation with their Wines. 'Tis  
“ true, their Wines being heavy and strong,  
“ did not at first please, and we hanker'd af-  
“ ter the old Claret of *Bordeaux*; but in the  
“ time the Quantities wore off, and the Mer-  
“ chants found out Ways and Means either  
“ to bring the *Portuguese* Wine to our Pa-  
“ lates, or Custom brought our Palates to the  
“ Wine: So that we began to forget the  
“ *French* Wines, and like the other well e-  
“ nough. And for this Reason I confess I  
“ should like much rather the Act against so-  
“ phicating of Wines should not pass; for we  
“ trade in Wine so much to our Advantage  
“ now, to what we did before, that we had  
“ better *drink almost any thing for Wine, than*  
“ *fall back into the old Channel of Trade, and buy*  
“ *them with our ready Money from France.* It  
“ is a strange thing to observe how Trade runs  
“ in Channels and Eddies, and will sometimes,  
“ like the Tide, shift the Course, change the  
“ Streams, and remove or fix Banks and Sands  
“ here or there, and on a sudden return to  
“ them again.

“ By these Turns of Affairs the Channel  
“ of the Wine-Trade is quite shifted from  
“ *France to Portugal and Spain.* It is not for  
“ me to enter into the dark Doings of our  
“ Vintners, Wine-Coopers, and Brewing-  
“ Merchants: I am not examining what  
“ Quantity

“ Quantity of Cyder or Turnip-Juice is used  
 “ in that Wine we drink. *It is better for*  
 “ England *we should drink all Turnip-Wine, or*  
 “ any Wine, than that we should drink the best  
 “ Wine in Europe, and go back to France for  
 “ it. At present the Gust of the French Wine  
 “ is laid by, and the gross Draught of the  
 “ whole Nation is upon Portugal Wines.  
 “ These the Portuguese sell us for our Manu-  
 “ factures, and take a large Quantity of  
 “ Goods from us: And all that ready Money  
 “ we used to pay the French for their Wines,  
 “ Brandies, and Vinegars, is saved in our  
 “ Pockets.

Our Trade  
 to Portugal  
 better than  
 that with  
 France:

“ Upon the whole it appears, that were  
 “ we now actually at Peace with France, we  
 “ should not import any of their Glasse, their Hats  
 “ or Lustrings, not a fifth part of their Wine,  
 “ nor above a Third of their Brandy, nor half  
 “ their Linens.

“ And this great Alteration must of course  
 “ turn the Channel of Trade against them.  
 “ 'Tis true, they have prohibited intirely our  
 “ Trade to them with Herrings in Time of Peace,  
 “ and laid high Duties on our Manufactures;  
 “ but our Lead, our Tin, our Tobacco, our Su-  
 “ gars, our East-India Goods, our Corn, our  
 “ Leather, and so much of our Wools. These things  
 “ they must have, they will have, and they cannot  
 “ go without. And it is plain, that for these  
 “ and such like, during the Interval of the last  
 “ Peace, they received from us such prodigi-  
 “ ous Quantities as plainly turned the Scale of  
 “ Trade on our side to a great Value.

France has  
 prohibited  
 our herring,  
 and laid  
 high Duties  
 on our Ma-  
 nufactures.

We had the  
 Ballance a-  
 gainst  
 France du-  
 ring King  
 William's  
 Peace.

*The Re-  
view's Self  
contradicti-  
on.*

“ To establish the Authority of the *Review*  
“ in Matters of Trade, if I mistake not, there  
“ is a Passage in the Author of *The Essay on*  
“ *Publick Credit*, in which he declares his Ap-  
“ probation of the *Review* in Matters of  
“ Trade much better than in Politicks. How  
“ comes it to pass that he is now gained over  
“ to be an Advocate for the late projected  
“ Commerce, which must have proved the  
“ Ruin of this Kingdom ?

“ I must be so just to the Author of the  
“ *Review*, as to observe, that in a Treatise  
“ he has since published, intituled, *Some*  
“ *Thoughts upon the Subject of Commerce with*  
“ *France*, pag. 17. he acknowledges himself  
“ to have been mistaken formerly in his Opi-  
“ nion of the Ballance of the *French Trade*  
“ being 800,000 *l. per Ann.* to our Loss.  
“ The Mistake, he says, he owes “ to a Pa-  
“ per which pass'd for current Truth in those  
“ times, called a SCHEME, &c. But, says  
“ he, I have really been amazed to see that  
“ Scheme detected of such manifest Fraud,  
“ proved to be wholly false, and designedly  
“ imposed on the Nation, even to stripping it  
“ stark naked from all manner of Covering,  
“ and not one Word said in its defence.

“ Sir, you have said more in defence of  
“ that SCHEME, than the Author of the  
“ *Review* and his present Party will ever be a-  
“ ble to answer ; and notwithstanding all the  
“ Objections against it from the *Custom-house*,  
“ the Ballance of *French Trade* was hereto-  
“ fore 800,000 *l. per Ann.* against *England*,  
“ as asserted by the *Review*.

“ But

“ But ’tis probable this Author may have  
“ corrected his Mistake from some secret  
“ Convictions given him by the above-men-  
“ tioned Author of the *Essay on Publick Credit*,  
“ rather than from the Frauds pretended to be  
“ detected in the SCHEME.

“ It remains then, according to the un-  
“ bias’d Sentiments of the Author of the  
“ *Review* in the above-cited Passages, that  
“ *our Trade with France*, by our Prohi-  
“ bitions and high Duties on *French Goods*,  
“ stands on a much better Foot than it  
“ has done these Fifty Years, or indeed e-  
“ ver before ; that the Ballance heretofore  
“ run 800,000 *l.* against us ; that the very  
“ Wines and Brandies imported formerly from  
“ *France* overpower’d all our Exports to that  
“ Nation ; that the *French Refugees* set up  
“ here their black Crapes, a Manufacture  
“ purely their own, and that consequently  
“ they had a Woollen Manufacture in that  
“ Nation ; that by means of their Prohibiti-  
“ ons and high Duties our Lustings or plain  
“ black Silks, Paper, and Sail-Cloth are won-  
“ derfully improved, and great Numbers of our  
“ Poor daily employed in them ; that we had  
“ better drink almost any thing for Wine,  
“ Turnip Wine, or any other Wine, than  
“ fall back into our old Channel of Trade, and  
“ buy our Wine with ready Money from  
“ *France*, or than drink the best in *Europe*,  
“ and go back to *France* for it ; that while  
“ these Prohibitions or high Duties shall re-  
“ main in force, “ we should not import any  
“ of their Glafs, their Hats, or Lustrings, not



“ a fifth of their Wine, nor above a third  
 “ part of their Brandy, nor half their Linens:  
 “ I suppose he means in proportion to what we  
 “ did formerly; but while all these things  
 “ stand prohibited here, several things, and to  
 “ a very great Value, the *French* must buy from  
 “ *England*, and pay for them with ready Mo-  
 “ ney. I am,

Sir, your humble Servant.

*A Letter shewing how dangerous Rivals the  
 French are of our Trade, especially in the  
 Articles of Fishing, by our Grants to them of  
 Cape Breton, &c.*

*Wherein is also a State of the extravagant  
 Duties payable upon Herrings, &c. in  
 France.*

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

“ **T**HE *Mercator* is frequently essaying  
 “ against the *Dutch*, and tells us they  
 “ are very averse to our Trading with *France*.  
 “ If I should for once agree with the *Merca-*  
 “ *tor* in the Matter of Fact, I am afraid I  
 “ should differ with him in the Reason; the  
 “ Reason he assigns is, that they may have  
 “ the Opportunity of buying the *French* Goods,  
 “ and running them in upon us; but this is  
 “ so ridiculous, nothing can be more so.  
 “ What! Can the *Dutch* buy *French* Goods,  
 “ carry them to *Holland*, and then run them in  
 “ upon us? And cannot the *French* much more  
 “ easily

“ easily from their own Coast do it? The  
 “ *French* are nearer, their *Risque* less, the  
 “ Freight cheaper, than to go so much far-  
 “ ther a-field, run a double *Risque*, and pay  
 “ double or treble Freight and other Charges.  
 “ Really, in this Instance, it must be said the  
 “ *Mercator* was hard put to it to find a Stone  
 “ to sling at the *Dutch*; but supposing the  
 “ *Dutch* as fond of the *French* Trade as they  
 “ please, this I am sure of, that since our Pro-  
 “ hibition of *French* Goods, we have export-  
 “ ed more Goods to all the World, than dur-  
 “ ing their being admitted.

“ The *Mercator* has obliged us with some  
 “ Instances, wherein the *Dutch* and *French*  
 “ have been too hard for us in Trade. Had  
 “ he done this fairly and impartially, he would  
 “ have been to be commended; and in this I  
 “ will join Issue with him, that whatever Na-  
 “ tion, be it *Dutch*, *French*, or any other,  
 “ that endeavours to over-reach us in Matters  
 “ of Commerce, ought to be look’d upon by  
 “ *Great Britain* with a jealous Eye; but I will  
 “ shew him there is not so much Danger from  
 “ the *Dutch*, with relation to our Trade, as  
 “ from the *French*.

“ He has in his Papers, No. 130, 131,  
 “ and 132. given us eight Instances, where-  
 “ in he says the *Dutch* are our most dange-  
 “ rous Rivals; and in his No. 133. he says  
 “ the *French* are our Rivals only in two Bran-  
 “ ches of our Trade, viz. The Woollen  
 “ Manufacture, and our Shipping. But where-  
 “ fore two? Why, these two are worth all  
 “ the rest, Surely he forgot when he said this,

The Merca-  
 tor's Self  
 contradic-  
 tions.

“ how often he has told us of the pitiful and  
 “ inconsiderable Woollen Manufacture of the  
 “ *French*, that there could be no danger of  
 “ their Woollen Manufactures, and that, far  
 “ from rivalling us at a foreign Market, they  
 “ could never cope with us in *France* it self,  
 “ tho’ our Woollen Manufactures should pay  
 “ the Duties imposed by this Treaty.

“ Again, these great Wits have very short  
 “ Memoires. He must needs have forgot how  
 “ frequently he has told us, that the *Dutch* are  
 “ the only Rivals of our Navigation ; but now  
 “ he acknowledges the *French* are so too —  
 “ And are the *French* such innocent Crea-  
 “ tures, that their being Rivals in our Navi-  
 “ gation is not so dangerous to us, as the same  
 “ thing would be in the *Dutch* ?

“ But that I may not be misunderstood as  
 “ if I were pleading for the *Dutch* ; for where-  
 “ insoever they are our Rivals in Trade, they  
 “ are to be guarded against. But I am shew-  
 “ ing we ought to be more jealous of the  
 “ *French*, who are more our Rivals in Trade;  
 “ and in order to do this, I shall shew the  
 “ *Mercator*’s Partiality, by representing truly  
 “ the State of the *French* Trade, and adding  
 “ to the *Mercator*’s two Instances several o-  
 “ thers wherein the *French* are our Rivals, at  
 “ least equally, if not in a greater degree than  
 “ the *Dutch* are.

French ri-  
 val us in  
 the Fishery.

“ He has omitted to charge to the Account  
 “ of the *French* their rivalling us in the Fische-  
 “ ry. He charges this to the Account of the  
 “ *Dutch*, and tells us very truly, that they are  
 “ increased in the Herring-Fishery ; I hope  
 “ he

" he will not say in Red-Herrings, that he  
 " knows is not true, for they make none but  
 " White-Herrings : They catch them in the  
 " open Sea near the Coast of Scotland, and car-  
 " ry them to *Holland* and prepare them. Their  
 " Industry in this is to be commended, and  
 " the Supineness and Negligence of the *Scotch*  
 " and *English* to be blamed, not that they do  
 " not hinder them, but that they do not imi-  
 " tate their Industry and Vigilance. He says  
 " they used to pay an Acknowledgment for  
 " this ; I wish they did so still. But I shall  
 " tell him presently of another Nation that  
 " paid a Duty for catching Fish, which has  
 " been long since discontinu'd thro' the Faults  
 " of some Persons formerly, and that they are  
 " now very far from being again reduced to a  
 " Condition of being ever forced to renew the  
 " Payment of that Duty. He says, the *Dutch*  
 " have beaten us out of Whale-Fishing : He  
 " has forgot that the *French* have a very great  
 " Fishery of that kind ; but it did not serve  
 " his Purpose to say any thing of the *French*  
 " White-Fishery ; that would have made a  
 " gainst his good Friends, and therefore was  
 " to be pass'd over in Silence. Notwithstand-  
 " ing the *French* Fishermen of *St. John de*  
 " *Luse*, *Bayonne*, and other Ports in that Part  
 " of the Bay of *Biscay*, are the most expert  
 " Harpooners in the World, without except-  
 " ing the *Dutch* and *Hamburghers*. Whe-  
 " ther the *Mercator* knew this or no, the *French*  
 " know it, and therefore took care by the  
 " late Treaty of Commerce to have the Pro-  
 " duce of Whales excepted (not against us,  
 " says

*The Industry  
 of the Dutch  
 and our Su-  
 pineness as  
 to the Fish-  
 ery.*

*French  
 have a great  
 Whale-  
 Fishery, and  
 are the best  
 Harpooners  
 in the  
 World.*

*Our Danger  
from the  
French  
Fishery in  
Newfound-  
land, and  
giving 'em  
Cape Breton.*

“ says the *Mercator*, but) against the *Dutch*.  
 “ 'Tis a Sign they think their own Fishery  
 “ sufficient at least to supply themselves with  
 “ the Produce of Whales, without being be-  
 “ holden either to the *Dutch* or *English*. The  
 “ *Dutch* then are not the only Nation that  
 “ have wormed us out of this Trade ; the  
 “ *French* have done it too, to the vast Increase  
 “ of their Navigation and Seamen ———  
 “ But the *French* have not only increased in  
 “ the Whale-Fishery, but, which is of much  
 “ more consequence to us, they have exceed-  
 “ ingly increased their Fishery to *Newfound-*  
 “ *land*, as well on the Coast as on the great  
 “ Bank. The Consequences of this Increase  
 “ of their Fishery we have, to our Sorrow,  
 “ too sensibly felt ; and yet they have found  
 “ Advocates for it, who are ready to answer,  
 “ when any thing is represented against grant-  
 “ ing the *French* any Liberty of Fishery,  
 “ What ! must the *French* have nothing ? So  
 “ very kind are some Persons to them, that  
 “ they are angry with their Fellow Subjects  
 “ for endeavouring to exclude them that Fi-  
 “ shery. The *French* do not only fish on the  
 “ great Banks of *Newfoundland* for such Fish  
 “ as is cured without drying, as the *Dutch* do  
 “ in their White Herring Fishery in the open  
 “ Sea, but have had the Address to obtain  
 “ that the Island of *Cape Breton* should be  
 “ yielded up to them to fortify and do what  
 “ they please with ; where they may, and  
 “ doubtless will, make another *Dunkirk*, and  
 “ where they may carry on their Dry Fische-  
 “ ry, as well as at *Placentia*. We have an  
 “ Ac-



“ Account that they have some time ago sent  
 “ Men of War to fortify *Cape Breton*: But,  
 “ as if this was not Privilege enough for them,  
 “ they have obtained that in the Fishing Sea-  
 “ son they may resort to the very Island of  
 “ *Newfoundland* itself, and erect Stages, &c.  
 “ to cure and dry their Fish at. ’Tis a Sign  
 “ they think this Liberty sufficient for them ;  
 “ for they have excepted against all this sort  
 “ of Fish, but what shall be in Barrels by the  
 “ late Treaty of Commerce. The *Mercator*  
 “ cannot be so ignorant as to suppose *New-*  
 “ *foundland* Fish, and especially the Dry Fish,  
 “ can be carried to *France* in Barrels, but at  
 “ such an Increase of the Cost as shall render  
 “ the Sale impracticable in that Country,  
 “ tho’ the Duties there are sufficient to do  
 “ this.

“ But this is not all ; the World is well a-  
 “ mended with the *French* since the Time  
 “ that they paid a Tribute for the Liberty of  
 “ curing and drying Fish at *Newfoundland*,  
 “ which was granted to them by King *Charles*  
 “ the First, in the 10th Year of his Reign.  
 “ At this present the *French* do not only pay  
 “ no Tribute, but by their Neighbourhood  
 “ at *Cape Breton* will oblige us to keep large  
 “ Garisons at *Newfoundland*, if we will pre-  
 “ vent our being surprized there ; where they  
 “ will have the Liberty of the Fishing Season  
 “ equally with us from *Cape Bonavista* North-  
 “ ward to the Northern Point of the said Is-  
 “ land, &c. by which Situation they will be  
 “ our Rivals in another Branch of our Fishe-  
 “ ry, that of *Salmon*: For at the Harbour of

*France paid*  
*Tribute for-*  
*merly, but*  
*none now.*

*Have a*  
*good Salmon*  
*Fishery in*  
*Newfound-*  
*land, and*  
*such Privi-*  
*leges there*  
*as endanger*  
*us,*

“ *Bo-*

“ *Bonavista*, which is to the Northward of  
 “ the Cape, and therefore within their Limits,  
 “ is an extraordinary good Fishery of *Salmon*.  
 “ But this some wise Folks knew nothing of.  
 “ Had the late King *William* granted the  
 “ *Dutch* any one of the Islands of the *Orkneys*  
 “ in Propriety to fortify, or a Liberty of re-  
 “ sorting to, or of erecting Drying Houses  
 “ necessary to cure Red Herrings in any such  
 “ Island, or in *England* or *Scotland*, it would  
 “ have been remember’d with very good Rea-  
 “ son a thousand and a thousand times over.  
 “ So the *Mercator* may observe here, the  
 “ *Dutch* and *French* do neither of them pay the  
 “ Duty they used to pay ; but the *French* have  
 “ had the Cunning to procure for their Fishe-  
 “ ry such Liberties and Privileges as can scarce-  
 “ ly be consistent with our Safety or Interest,  
 “ and which the *Dutch* could not obtain from  
 “ those whom the *Mercator* counts their  
 “ Friends. I leave the World now to judge  
 “ who are our GREATEST and MOST  
 “ DANGEROUS Rivals in the Fishery.

*The French  
 should ne-  
 ver have  
 been allow’d  
 to fish in  
 Newfound-  
 land.*

“ Not that I am so much concerned that  
 “ they do not now pay that Acknowledgment  
 “ they formerly paid for the Liberty of fish-  
 “ ing on the Island of *Newfoundland*, as I am  
 “ that they at any time paid any such Acknow-  
 “ ledgment: For certainly, without the Sha-  
 “ dow of that Submission, they would not  
 “ have been indulg’d in a Matter that might  
 “ in its Consequence prove as fatal to our  
 “ Safety, as detrimental to our Commerce;  
 “ and I cannot but think, that notwithstanding  
 “ the Interest the *French* had in the Court of  
 “ *Eng-*

“ *England*, by means of the *French Match*,  
 “ they would hardly, without this seeming Ad-  
 “ vantage, have obtained Leave to cure and  
 “ dry their Fish upon the *very* Island of *New-*  
 “ *foundland* itself, whatever Leave might have  
 “ been granted them of fishing upon the great  
 “ Banks thereof, which are as much the De-  
 “ pendencies of that Island, as the Coasts and  
 “ Banks, where the *Dutch* fish for Herrings  
 “ off of *Scotland* and the North Parts of  
 “ *England*, are belonging to *Great Britain* ;  
 “ and for which there was the same Reason to  
 “ insist on a Duty to be paid by the *French*,  
 “ tho’ they should never set their Foot upon  
 “ the Island, as there was for demanding it of  
 “ the *Dutch* for what they caught here in the  
 “ open Sea—Every body must acknowledge,  
 “ that it was extremely the Interest of *France*  
 “ submit to pay 5 *per Cent.* upon all the Fish  
 “ they caught and dry’d at *Newfoundland*, that  
 “ they might secure to themselves the Advan-  
 “ tage of such a Nursery of Seamen.

“ They are now so much our Rivals in this *They employ*  
 “ Trade, and are increased to such a prodigi- *400 Ships*  
 “ ous Degree, that they employ yearly from *there per*  
 “ *St. Malo, Granville, Rochelle, St. Martins,* *ann. supply*  
 “ *Isle of Rea, Bayonne, St. Jean de Luz, Si-* *themselves,*  
 “ *bour, &c.* to carry on their Fishery on the *and much of*  
 “ great Banks of *Newfoundland*, and on the *Spain and*  
 “ Coasts of that Island, that is, in their Wet *Italy to our*  
 “ and Dry Fish, upwards of four hundred *great Loss.*  
 “ Sail of Ships; they do not only now supply  
 “ themselves with the Fish they formerly had  
 “ from us, but furnish many Parts of *Spain*  
 “ and *Italy* therewith, and rival us there to our  
 “ pro;

“ prodigious Loss. They have the properest  
 “ sort of Salt of their own, which renders  
 “ their Voyages much shorter than ours ; for  
 “ we are obliged to go from hence to *Rochelle*,  
 “ *Olleron*, *St. Martins*, &c. to fetch that Com-  
 “ modity, which they have at their own  
 “ Doors ; and thereby we most frequently  
 “ spend a Month or six Weeks more in our  
 “ Voyages than they do.

France rais-  
 ed her Na-  
 val Power  
 from the  
 Newfoundland  
 Fishery.

“ They are so extremely sensible of the pro-  
 “ digious Advantage of this Fishery, and so  
 “ very intent upon pursuing it, that from their  
 “ first Attempts to make themselves considera-  
 “ ble at Sea, they have had it perpetually in  
 “ View——They first obtained Leave to fish  
 “ upon paying a Duty of 5 *per Cent.* after-  
 “ wards they got that Acknowledgment re-  
 “ linquished : But they have lately gone much  
 “ further ; for in the present Treaty they have  
 “ procured a Cession to be made to them of  
 “ the Island of *Cape Breton*, a maiden Fishe-  
 “ ry, that has scarce ever been touch’d, where-  
 “ as *Newfoundland* is almost exhausted, and  
 “ also several Islands in the Gulph of *St. Law-*  
 “ *rence* : And, not content with that, they  
 “ have further obtained a Liberty of curing  
 “ and drying their Fish, setting up Stages, and  
 “ resorting to OUR Island of *Newfoundland*  
 “ during all the time that is of any use to re-  
 “ sort thither ; that is, during the Fishing  
 “ Season. They are indeed to deliver us up  
 “ the Possession of *Placentia*, and some other  
 “ Places in *Newfoundland* ; but then they  
 “ have taken care to have a better Place yield-  
 “ ed to them in lieu thereof ; with this extra-  
 “ ordinary

“ ordinary Favour to them more than to us,  
 “ that they have the Liberty granted them to  
 “ frequent OUR Island of *Newfoundland*, and  
 “ erect Stages, &c. thereon for curing and  
 “ drying their Fish; but we have not the Pri-  
 “ vilege allowed us of doing the same on any  
 “ of their Islands, or on the Island of Cape  
 “ *Breton*, which they have express Permission  
 “ granted them to fortify as they please. Thus  
 “ they are our Rivals in the FISHERY *by our*  
 “ *own Consent*, which is the more wonderful,  
 “ in that it is owing to this Fishery that they  
 “ dared to contend for the Mastery at Sea with  
 “ the Maritime Strength of *England* and *Hol-*  
 “ *land* united. ’Tis true, the *English* and  
 “ *Dutch* are most frequently called the *Mari-*  
 “ *time* Powers; but I think it a *Jest* to appro-  
 “ priate the Name of *Maritime Powers* to  
 “ *Great Britain* and *Holland* exclusive of  
 “ *France*, when we consider what a Figure  
 “ that Nation made at Sea before the Battle of  
 “ *La Hogue* in 1692. Can we think, that a  
 “ few Years of Peace, with such a Fishery,  
 “ and such Conditions of Commerce as were  
 “ to be granted to *France* by the late Treaty,  
 “ will not then enable her to contend again  
 “ with our united Eleets? The History both  
 “ of *France* and *England* will shew you, that  
 “ it is since their procuring Leave to fish at  
 “ *Newfoundland* that they have grown so for-  
 “ midable at Sea; and that their Navy Royal  
 “ has augmented in proportion to the Numbers  
 “ of Ships employed in that Fishery — What  
 “ have we not to expect then from them now  
 “ they have obtained a *Right* to a better Place  
 “ by



“ by their Fishery, in the Opinion even of the  
 “ *French* themselves, as you will see by the  
 “ inclosed Letter; written by a Minister of  
 “ State in *France* to the Duke de Gramond at  
 “ Bayonne, and which I believe is genuine?  
 “ The Occasion of it was, that the People of  
 “ *St. Jean de Luz* and *Sibour* (two Places in  
 “ the County of *la Bour*) being under Appre-  
 “ hensions that their Fishery at *Newfoundland*  
 “ was to be delivered up wholly to us, the  
 “ Duke wrote a Letter to *Paris* to be rightly  
 “ informed, and received the following An-  
 “ swer.

Copy of a Letter written by Monsieur de Pont-  
 chartrain to Monsieur the Duke de Gramond,  
 from Fontainebleau, 19. September 1713.

“ I Have received, Sir, the Letter you did  
 “ me the Honour to write me the third  
 “ of this Month, with two Letters that were  
 “ directed to you by the Inhabitants of *St.*  
 “ *Jean de Luz* and *Sibour*, upon the Subject  
 “ of their Fishery of *Dry Fish*. From the  
 “ Account I have given the King of their De-  
 “ mand, his Majesty directed me to write by  
 “ his Order to Monseigneur the Duke d’*Au-*  
 “ *mont*, his Ambassador Extraordinay at *Lon-*  
 “ *don*, to ask of the Queen of *Great Britain*  
 “ a Permission for *them* to go the next Year to  
 “ *Placentia*, and the Liberty to continue their  
 “ Fishery in ALL the Ports and Harbours up-  
 “ on the Coast of *Newfoundland*. I shall give  
 “ my self the Honour to acquaint you with  
 “ Monseigneur the Duke d’*Aumont*’s Answer.  
 “ I

“ I agree with you, Sir, that the Country of  
 “ *la Bour* will suffer very much, should they  
 “ be deprived of their Liberty of carrying on  
 “ their Fishery of *Dry Fish*; and you will be  
 “ persuaded of the Attention I have to pro-  
 “ cure to the Merchants that drive this Com-  
 “ merce the Means to *continue them in it*, when  
 “ I have informed you, that the King sent  
 “ from *Rocheford*, in the Month of *May* last,  
 “ one Frigat to go and lay the first Foundation  
 “ of an Establishment in the Island of *Cape*  
 “ *Brèton*, where Fish is MUCH MORE A-  
 “ BUNDANT than at the Island of *New-*  
 “ *foundland*, and where one may *make the Fish,*  
 “ *and manage the Drying thereof easily.* This  
 “ Frigat arrived *June 26.* at *Placentia*, from  
 “ whence she was to continue her Course for  
 “ *Cape Breton*, to which Place I have caused  
 “ to be transported one hundred Men to be-  
 “ gin the Settlement. His Majesty will send  
 “ in the beginning of the Year three Ships to  
 “ transport thither the Garrison of *Placentia*,  
 “ and the Inhabitants of the Island of *New-*  
 “ *foundland*, and to put the *last Hand* to the  
 “ Establishment of that Port. The Merchants  
 “ of this Kingdom may then send all such  
 “ Ships as they shall think fit to order for the  
 “ fishing of dry Fish, and for the Oils that  
 “ are made from the Fish on the said Island.  
 “ This Favour ought to animate the Mer-  
 “ chants that drive this Commerce to carry it  
 “ on with Vigour, from the Advantage they  
 “ will draw from it. This is all I have been  
 “ able to do in their Favour. I desire you to be  
 “ persuaded of the great Sincerity wherewith I  
 “ have the Honour to be — “ From

*Fishery of  
 Cape Breton  
 better than  
 that of New-  
 foundland.*

French rival us in the  
Fishery of  
Dry Cod,

“ From this Letter ’tis plain the *French* never intended to quit the Fishery of Dry Cod, and that they have very much at heart the rivalling us therein.

“ That, to secure themselves against any Accident, they were careful to send a Man of War in the Month of *May*, 1713. which was within a little time after the signing the Treaty the 11th of *April* before, and had sent one hundred Men to lay the first Foundation of their Fortifications at *Cape Breton*; and further assure the Duke, that three other Ships should be sent the beginning of this Year to transport the Garrison of *Placentia* thither, and put the last Hand to the Establishment of that Port; which no doubt they will effect before they deliver up *Placentia*: Not much unlike what they are doing under our Noses, making a NEW Port at *Mardyke*, before they fill up the OLD One at *Dunkirk*.

“ Another thing observable from this Letter is, that the *French* are NOW so SANGUINE, as not to content themselves with the Cession of *Cape Breton* and other Islands thereabouts, or with the Liberty of erecting Stages, &c. to cure and dry their Fish, from *Cape Bonavista* Northward, and so on to *Point Riche* on the Western Side; but are asking new Favours, and demand a Permission to *Placentia* this Year, (altho’ the time agreed for delivering that Place has been long since expired) and sue for a Liberty to make their Fish in ALL the Ports and Harbours upon the Coasts of *Newfoundland*; which,  
“ tho’

“ tho’ I make no doubt but was denied them,  
 “ yet I am amazed that it should ever enter  
 “ into their Heads so much as to attempt.  
 “ Sure they think we can deny them nothing !

“ This explains the true Meaning of the  
 “ third Specification in the late Treaty, where *The Treaty*  
 “ it is said, *That Salt Fish in Barrels only shall* *allows no*  
 “ *be imported into that Kingdom.* They are *Salt fish to*  
 “ resolved to cultivate and improve this Fish- *be imported*  
 “ ery to the utmost, and know it is impossi- *to France*  
 “ ble in the Nature of the thing for us to car- *but in*  
 “ ry any dried Codfish from thence to France *Barrels.*  
 “ in Barrels ; more especially so long as they  
 “ themselves can and do always carry it in  
 “ Bulk.

“ And here, since I have mentioned the  
 “ third Specification, I will (for the sake of  
 “ the *West Country Pilchards* and *Yarmouth*  
 “ *Herrings*, and to explain more at large what  
 “ I find you did but just mention of the Du- *Extrava-*  
 “ ties of Fish) subjoin an Account of the pro- *gant Duties*  
 “ digious Duties which must hereafter be paid *in France on*  
 “ upon those two sorts of Fish, if this Speci- *our Her-*  
 “ fication should be rendered effectual. And *ring, Pil-*  
 “ that your Readers may the better under- *chards, and*  
 “ stand how much the said Specification has a- *other bar-*  
 “ greed shall be paid, I shall quote the Words *reled Fish,*  
 “ thereof ; viz. *by the late*  
 “ *Treaty.*

“ Salt Fish in Barrels only is to be imported  
 “ into the Kingdom ; and at all Places of En-  
 “ trance in the Kingdom, Countries and Ter-  
 “ ritories under the Dominion of the King, e-  
 “ ven at all free Ports, the Duties of Landing  
 “ and Consumption shall be paid, which were  
 “ appointed before the Tariff of 1664. and  
 “ besides,

Duties on  
Fish in  
France.

“ besides, 40 Livres *per* Last consisting of  
“ two Barrels, weighing each three hundred  
“ Pounds, for the Duty of Entry.

“ The Duty of *Entry*, which is agreed shall  
“ be paid on *Fish* by this *Specification*, (tho’ o-  
“ therwise rated in the Tariff of 1664. is, for  
“ every Last of 12 Barrels, Liv. Sols

“ Besides the Duty of *Landing*, which  
“ is \_\_\_\_\_ 40 33 12

“ As also the Duty of *Consumption*, 36

“ To which may be added 2 Sols *per*  
“ Livre upon those two Duties, being an  
“ Augmentation constantly paid thereon 6 19

“ The Fishmongers Duty 3 Livres *per*  
“ Barrel, \_\_\_\_\_ 36

“ Add to this the 2 Sols *per* Livre as  
“ above, \_\_\_\_\_ 3 12

“ The Duty of *Romaine*, (which is  
“ payable in the respective Provinces that  
“ are included in the Provision reserved  
“ in the 9th Article, in these Words, And  
“ in the other Provinces the Duty shall not  
“ be payable, otherwise than according to  
“ the Rule at that time prescribed) 56

“ Sols *per* Barrel \_\_\_\_\_ 33 12

“ Add to this the Augmentation of  
“ 2 Sols *per* Livre as above, \_\_\_\_\_ 3 07

195 02

“ Which, at 18*d.* *per* Livre, is 14*l.* 9*s.*  
“ 7*d.* *per* Last of 12 Barrels, or 24*s.* 1*d.* *per*  
“ Barrel of 300 Pound weight.

“ But because a Barrel of Herrings seldom  
“ weighs above two thirds of that weight, there-  
“ fore, instead of 24*s.* 1*d.* *per* Barrel, I  
“ com-



“ compute it only at 16 s. per Barrel of Her-  
 “ rings, the Value whereof is seldom, one  
 “ Year with another, 15 s. put on board; so  
 “ that this Duty will amount to about 105 or  
 “ 106 per Cent. of their Value shipp’d off.

“ And as a Hoghead of Pilchards weighs  
 “ generally above 500 Pounds weight, I com-  
 “ pute for 300 Pounds 24 s. 1 d.  
 200 Pounds 16 s.

---

“ The Duty on a Hoghead of  
 “ Pilchards then is ——— 40 s. 1 d.

“ Which is more than 100 per Cent. of  
 “ their Value shipp’d off; for they cannot  
 “ reasonably be esteem’d at 40 s. per Hogf-  
 “ head for any Number of Years. They must  
 “ be very ignorant who imagine we can send  
 “ either of these sorts of Fish thither, if ever  
 “ this Treaty take effect.

I am, Sir, &c.

The *Mercator* in this whole Controversy con-  
 cerning the *French* Trade and Treaty, observes  
 one Method, which is of great use to himself,  
 and that is, never to take notice of any Ar-  
 gument of his Adversary, to which he is not  
 able to offer the least colour of an Answer.

At his first setting out, and in very many of  
 his Papers, he laboured to induce his Readers  
 to have a good Opinion of the Tariff of 1664.  
*This Tariff*, says he, No. 1. *was esteemed by all*  
*the Nations in these Parts of Europe to be very*  
*easy, and not the least Interruption to their Trade*  
*with France.*

*The French*  
*Tariff of*  
*1661 exa-*  
*min’d, and*  
*the Merca-*  
*tor’s Argu-*  
*ments for*  
*it confuted.*

The

The next thing his Readers are to believe, is, that our late Treaty has obliged *France* not to exceed the easy Duties of that Tariff, and that it has consequently opened to us a most beneficial Trade to that Country.

*All Manufactures of WOOL*, says he in his first, and he has often repeated it in his following Papers, *were rated at 10 per Cent. according to their Value.*

And No. 3. and 4. he says, that the Treaty has restored us to this Tariff, except that Broad Cloth, which by the Tariff of 1664. paid but 40 Livres *per Piece* of 25 Ells, is now to pay by the Tariff of 1699. 55 Livres; and mill'd Serges, which paid 10 Livres by the former Tariff, are to pay by the latter 11 Livres.

All other Woollen Manufactures, says he, No. 6. except Broad Cloth and Cloth Serges, are admitted into *France* by the late Treaty, and are to pay only the Duties of the Tariff of 1664, that is, according to him, not above 10 *per Cent. of their real Value*; and this is the Doctrine of one of his latest Papers, No. 134. *The Duties upon them now are by the Treaty of Commerce reduced to 10 per Cent. except on Broad Cloth and Serges only.*

French Tariff of 1699 equal to a Prohibition of our Woollen Manufactures.

Now, what must every Manufacturer in the Country think of the *Mercator*, and of our Treaty of Commerce, if vastly the greatest Part of our Woollen Manufactures are admitted into *France* by the late Treaty only under the Tariff of 1699? and shall be obliged to pay from 30 to 50 *per Cent.* of their real Value? Will our Manufacturers think themselves obliged for this Treaty? or that any of these Goods

Goods can be exported to that Country under so heavy a Load of Duties, except for Patterns to their own Fabricks? Will our Woollen Manufactures bear from 30 to 50 *per Cent.* in any Country in *Europe*? They must believe therefore that the Tariff of 1699. is a Prohibition.

Again, I am not now disputing with the *Mercator*, whether any of our Woollen Manufactures are admitted into *France* by the late Treaty under the Tariff of 1664. For the present, to oblige this Writer, I shall take for granted that all such of them as are not obliged to pay by the Tariff of 1699, are admitted by that Treaty under the Tariff of 1664; but are the Duties of this Tariff of no more than 10 *per Cent.* of the real Value of the Goods? or are they so very easy, that our People might hope to export any considerable Quantities to that Country, especially after *France* has continued for five and twenty Years without our Manufactures, and has made such Progress in their own? I shall now shew the *Mercator* what are the Duties by the Tariff of 1664, and this I shall do not so much to convince this idle Fellow, as to inform my Correspondent who has sent me the following Letter.

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

“ YOU have shewn us the Custom payable on long, short, and *Spanish* Cloths  
 “ in *France* by the Tariff of 1664, and also  
 “ by that of 1699, which is as follows;

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“ By

“ By the Tariff of 1664, the Custom on  
 “ Long  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Cloths a-} \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} 40 \\ 37\frac{1}{2} \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent. on their}$   
 “ Short  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{mounts to} \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} 37\frac{1}{2} \\ 33\frac{1}{3} \end{array} \right\} \text{ Value ;}$   
 “ And on *Spanish* Cloth  $23\frac{1}{3}$  per Cent. at a  
 “ Medium ;  
 “ And by the Tariff of 1699, the Custom on  
 “ Long  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Cloths a-} \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} 55 \\ 51\frac{2}{3} \end{array} \right\} \text{ per Cent.}$   
 “ Short  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{mounts to} \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} 51\frac{2}{3} \\ 33\frac{1}{3} \end{array} \right\}$   
 “ And on *Spanish* Cloths to  $33\frac{1}{3}$  per Cent. at  
 “ a Medium.

“ Sir, your *Mercator* so often tells us, that  
 “ the Duties on our Woollen Manufactures  
 “ in *France* by the Tariff of 1664, do not ex-  
 “ ceed 10 per Cent. of their real Value ; and  
 “ that all, except Cloth and Cloth Serges, are  
 “ to pay according to this Tariff by the late  
 “ Treaty, that you will highly oblige us if  
 “ you will be at the pains to inform us which  
 “ of our Manufactures, by the *Mercator's*  
 “ own Account, are to pay by the Tariff of 1699  
 “ and how much they are to pay by that Tariff;  
 “ also what shall be accounted Cloth, and  
 “ what Serges, and how they are to be tax'd  
 “ by that Tariff; and, in the last place, that  
 “ you will be so kind to let us know how our  
 “ Manufactures are to pay by the Tariff of  
 “ 1664, which, the *Mercator* says, is to be  
 “ the Rule by the late Treaty: for if they  
 “ should be found to exceed the *Mercator's* 10  
 “ per Cent. of their real Value, we could have  
 “ little hopes of exporting any Quantities into  
 “ *France*. I am, &c.

I think there would be little hopes, with a  
 Duty of no more than 10 per Cent. upon any  
of

of our Woollen Manufactures, of contending with the *French* in their own Country, when they have been so many years labouring at every sort of Woollen Manufacture; but I must answer my Correspondent.

Cloth (or Mill'd) Serges, by the Tariff of 1664, paid 10 Livres for 15 Ells, or Yards  $18\frac{3}{4}$ , that is, at 18 *d.* per Livre, 15 *s.* or 9 *d.*  $\frac{3}{4}$  per Yard, which

*The Duties on our Woollen Manufactures by the Tariffs of 1664 and 1699.*

on a Yard worth  $\left. \begin{array}{r} s. \quad d. \\ 2 \quad 6 \\ 3 \\ 3 \quad 6 \end{array} \right\}$  is  $\left. \begin{array}{r} 32 \\ 26\frac{2}{3} \\ 22\frac{2}{7} \end{array} \right\}$  per Cent.

And by the Tariff of 1699, must pay 11 Livres for 15 Ells, or Yards  $18\frac{3}{4}$ , that is, at 18 *d.* per Livre, 16 *s.* 6 *d.* or 10 *d.*  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Yard.

on a Yard worth  $\left. \begin{array}{r} s. \quad d. \\ 2 \quad 6 \\ 3 \\ 3 \quad 6 \end{array} \right\}$  is  $\left. \begin{array}{r} 35\frac{1}{2} \\ 29\frac{1}{2} \\ 25\frac{1}{7} \end{array} \right\}$  per Cent.

Serges (not Cloth Serges) by the Tariff of 1664, paid 6 Livres for 20 Ells, or 25 Yards, that is, at 18 *d.* per Livre, 9 *s.* or 4 *d.*  $\frac{8}{11}$  per Yard, which

on a Yard worth  $\left. \begin{array}{r} s. \quad d. \\ 1 \quad 2 \\ 1 \quad 4 \\ 1 \quad 6 \\ 1 \quad 9 \end{array} \right\}$  is  $\left. \begin{array}{r} 30\frac{6}{7} \\ 27 \\ 24 \\ 20\frac{4}{7} \end{array} \right\}$  per Cent.

And by the Tariff of 1699, must pay 8 Livres for 20 Ells, or 25 Yards, that is, at 18 *d.* per Livre, 12 *s.* or 5 *d.*  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Yard, which

on a Yard worth  $\left. \begin{array}{r} s. \quad d. \\ 1 \quad 2 \\ 1 \quad 4 \\ 1 \quad 6 \\ 1 \quad 9 \end{array} \right\}$  is  $\left. \begin{array}{r} 41\frac{1}{7} \\ 36 \\ 32 \\ 27\frac{3}{7} \end{array} \right\}$  per Cent.



The *Mercator* would have it thought, that *Perpetuanas* are to pay by the Tariff of 1664, and not by 1669; but these are the Serges which are called in the *French* Edicts *Imperial Serges*, and must pay by the latter of those Tariffs according to the aforesaid Valuation. The *Mercator* too would make a Distinction between Serges and Cloth Serges; but the Treaty has made no such Distinction: Serges in general are left to the extravagant Duties of that last Tariff.

And I am informed, that Stuffs and Says were ever charged in *France* under the Denomination of Serges; nor can I find it to be otherwise by the original *French* Tariffs that are now before me. These the *Mercator*, No. 6. would also have us believe are left to the Tariff of 1664; but I must desire him to inform me by what other Name than that of Serges they are taxed in that Tariff. If they are taxed by that Name, then by the late Treaty they are to pay by the Tariff of 1669.

Bays (Single) by the Tariff of 1664, paid 5 Livres (not 4 Livres, as by the *English* Translation) for 25 Ells, or  $31\frac{1}{4}$  Yards, which at 18 *d.* per Livre, amounts to 7 *s.* 6 *d.*

So that a Piece containing Yards  $45\frac{5}{6}$  paid 11 *s.*

s.

which on a	{	30	is	$36\frac{2}{3}$	}	per Cent.
Piece worth		40		$27\frac{1}{2}$		
		50		22		

Bays (Double or Minikin) by the same Tariff, paid 15 Livres for 25 Ells, or  $31\frac{1}{4}$  Yards, which amounts to 1 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.*

So

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So that a Double Bay containing 50 *Flemish* Ells, or Yards  $37\frac{1}{2}$ , paid 1 *l.* 7 *s.*

which on a Piece worth  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 3 \ 10 \\ 4 \ 00 \\ 4 \ 10 \end{array} \right.$  is  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 38\frac{4}{7} \\ 33\frac{3}{4} \\ 30 \end{array} \right.$  } *per Cent.*

And a Minikin Bay, containing 100 *Flemish* Ells, or 75 Yards, paid 2 *l.* 14 *s.*

which on a Piece worth  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 6 \ 10 \\ 7 \ 00 \\ 7 \ 10 \\ 8 \ 00 \end{array} \right.$  is  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 41\frac{7}{8} \\ 38\frac{3}{7} \\ 36 \\ 33\frac{3}{4} \end{array} \right.$  } *per Cent.*

Stockings (Worsted or Woollen) by this Tariff, paid  $3\frac{1}{2}$  Livres *per* dozen Pair, or 5 *s.* 3 *d.* (not according to the *English* Translation 1.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  *per* 100 *lib.*) which on one dozen Pair, valued at 20 *s.* one with the other, is  $26\frac{1}{4}$  *per Cent.*

Kerseys by the Tariff of 1664, paid  $3\frac{1}{2}$  Livres for 13 Ells, or  $16\frac{1}{4}$  Yards, that is, at 18 *d.* *per* Livre, 5 *s.* 3 *d.*

So that a Piece containing 28 $\frac{1}{2}$  Yards, paid 9 *s.* 4 *d.*

which on a Piece worth  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 35 \\ 40 \\ 45 \end{array} \right.$  is  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 26\frac{2}{3} \\ 23\frac{1}{3} \\ 20\frac{2}{7} \end{array} \right.$  } *per Cent.*

Flannels and Pennistones, by the Tariff of 1664, paid 6 Livres for 26 Ells, or  $32\frac{1}{2}$  Yards, that is, at 18 *d.* *per* Livre, 9 *s.* or 3 *d.*  $\frac{2}{6}\frac{1}{4}$  *per* Yard.

Which on a Yard of Flannel worth 12 *d.* is  $27\frac{1}{3}$  *per Cent.*

And on a Pennistone, containing  $47\frac{2}{3}$  Yards, the said Duty amounts to 13 *s.*  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

So that a Piece worth  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 50 \\ 55 \\ 60 \end{array} \right.$  pays  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 26\frac{2}{3} \\ 24 \\ 22 \end{array} \right.$  } *per Cent.*

I do not pretend here that Bays, Stockings, Kerseys, Flannels, or Pennistones, can be charged by the Tariff of 1699, under the Denomination of either Cloth or Serges; but if it should be allowed, that they are left to the Tariff of 1664, yet my Correspondent will see that even by that Tariff, the Load of Customs was so very heavy, that there was not the least Occasion for making it greater.

Cottons or Plains 100 Goads, by the Tariff of 1664, paid 12 Livres, or 18 s. which, if worth 9 l. is but 10 per Cent.

Friezes by the same Tariff paid 3 Livres, or 4 s. 6 d. for 18 Ells, or 22  $\frac{1}{2}$  Yards, which is 2 d.  $\frac{2}{3}$  per Yard; so the Custom on one Yard, at 2 s. per Yard, is 10 per Cent.

I believe upon these two trifling Articles of Cottons and Friezes, which make almost no shew at all in our Exports to *France*, it is that the *Mercator* grounds his 10 per Cent. upon our whole Woollen Manufactures by the Tariff of 1664. I suppose this will be his Excuse: but I should be for giving *France* little or nothing for the Liberty of importing these two poor Parts of our Woollen Goods Custom-free; it is certain, that our Exportation of them, with or without that Tariff, was always inconsiderable; but, as I have shewn, the Duties by that Tariff on Bays, Stockings, Kerseys, Flannels, or Pennistones, were so exorbitant, that *France* did not find there was any Necessity for adding to them.

There is one thing I had like to have omitted, and that is Cloths called *Dozens*, which

is not mentioned in the Tariff of 1699; whence the *Mercator* would infer, that they are to pay according to that of 1664: but I must inform him, that the Tariff of 1667 is made part of that of 1699 for all Goods that are omitted in the latter, and this by express Words, which say, That the Goods not comprised therein shall pay according to that Tariff.

*English* Cloths called *Dozens* are to pay 10 Livres or 15 s. for 10 Ells, or 15 Yards, by the Tariff of 1667, to which they are subject, being Cloth, and not being mentioned in the Tariff of 1699.

So that they are rated at 14  $\frac{2}{3}$  per Yard.

	s. d.			
which on a Yard worth	{	3	is	40
		3 6		34 $\frac{2}{3}$
		4		30
		4 6		26 $\frac{2}{3}$
		5		24
				} per Cent.

A sufficient Duty to prevent the Exportation of every Ounce of this Manufacture into *France*, as well as *Spanish* Cloths, which liable to the same Duty.

But I think for *Spanish* Cloths the *Mercator* need not much trouble himself; they are made of foreign Materials, and stand prohibited by the Edict of 1701, notwithstanding any thing in this Treaty.

*Our Spanish  
Cloths pro-  
hibited in  
France.*

*The following Letter, shewing the Unreasonableness of permitting the Importation of French Manufactures, and some of the fatal Consequences thereof; I take to be of the greatest Importance to set this Matter in a true Light.*

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

“ SINCE it has been always allowed that  
 “ foreign Commerce ought to be the chief  
 “ Object of *Great Britain's* Jealousy, and  
 “ that the Preservation thereof is of the utmost  
 “ Consequence to her Welfare and Prosperity :

“ It is really surprizing that there should  
 “ be any among us so very inconsiderate, as  
 “ to plead for the Restoration of the *French*  
 “ Trade, which must unavoidably cramp us  
 “ in almost every valuable Branch of our foreign  
 “ Traffick, reduce the Rents, and exhaust the  
 “ Stock of the Kingdom ; that must  
 “ ruin our Manufactures, and at the same  
 “ time establish theirs ; and which, in short,  
 “ will enable them to engross the Trade of the  
 “ Universe.

“ Are we ignorant that *France*, for many  
 “ Years past, has employ'd her ablest Ministers  
 “ and greatest Politicians to fix her Commerce  
 “ upon a firm Basis and solid Foundation ? That  
 “ his most Christian Majesty has apply'd his  
 “ utmost Care for encouraging of Trade and  
 “ Navigation, *as the only Means to enrich*



“ *enrich his Subjects ?* That he is fully determined to maintain this Conquest, and that above 40 Years since he declared, *That the Establishments he had made, having in every thing the Success he expected, he thought himself obliged to provide for their Continuance ?*

“ Or has his and his People’s Indolence from that time rendered them so contemptible, and us so very secure and safe, that we are content to cherish such a Rival ?

“ Is it possible that *Britons* can thus expose themselves to a Nation that is immoderately bent upon enlarging her Traffick, that is courting Commerce with the heartiest Applications and warmest Addresses that were ever yet made to a Kingdom, whose Navigation is prodigiously increased, or to any Potentate, who is convinced by Experience that the **BALLANCE OF TRADE**, wherever it centers, must secure the **BALLANCE OF POWER**, and whose unbounded Ambition, when thus supported, shall tempt him to contend for Universal Empire ?

“ Have we so soon forgot, that if our Sovereign had not broke the Chain with which *Europe* was some Years past threatned, she had long e’er this been an abject Slave, and that among the humble and trembling Croud, we must have fallen upon our Knees like the Camel, and been loaded at the Mercy of the Conqueror ?

“ But the Advantages we enjoyed by our Trade, enabled her Majesty to surmount

“ all Difficulties, and to secure not only her  
 “ own Subjects but other Nations also from  
 “ the impending Ruin.

“ However *Great Britain* can be only thus  
 “ considerable, and hold the Ballance of *Eu-*  
 “ *rope*, whilst she is rich and powerful ; and  
 “ we can only be said to be a rich and power-  
 “ ful Kingdom, as our Riches and Power  
 “ bear a proportion with our Neighbour Na-  
 “ tions.

“ Can we then be so very unhappy, as to  
 “ give *France* a Market for her Manufactures,  
 “ whereby she shall be recruited, and we ex-  
 “ hausted ? Will not this so sensibly affect us  
 “ in the tenderest part, that our Commerce  
 “ must immediately wax feeble, and by con-  
 “ sequence must not our Power be soon a-  
 “ bated ?

“ Our present Security is certainly owing  
 “ (next to the Blessing of Providence) to her  
 “ Majesty's Firmness to the common Cause  
 “ of *Europe*, to her wise Councils, to the hap-  
 “ py Conduct of her great and faithful Gene-  
 “ ral, and to the matchless Bravery of her  
 “ Forces both at Land and Sea ; but nothing  
 “ can more effectually establish our Prosperity  
 “ than an Excess and Predominancy of foreign  
 “ Trade.

“ Of this her Sacred Majesty was so sen-  
 “ sible, that she graciously recommended to  
 “ her Parliament last Year, TO THINK  
 “ OF PROPER METHODS FOR IM-  
 “ PROVING AND INCOURAGING  
 “ OUR HOME TRADE AND MANU-  
 “ FACTURES, which can alone render  
 “ our

“ our Traffick to other Nations considerable.

“ Those therefore who are sensible of the Importance hereof, and who have the Interest of their Country only in view, can never stoop to such Measures as must necessarily destroy our Manufactures, and at the same time establish a Staple for all Commodities in *France*.

“ But I am persuaded, if the Advocates for opening a Trade with *France*, upon the Foot of the late Treaty, would but consider the Advantages we have enjoyed by the Increase of our Woollen, Silk and Linen Manufactures, &c. since the Prohibition of our Commerce with that Kingdom in 1678 ; and inquire also into the State of our Trade, both before and since that Period, they would soon declare against the pernicious Consequences of such an Experiment.

*l. s. d.*

“ Our Exports before the			
“ said Prohibitions in 1662-3			
“ amounted to	_____	2,022,812	4 0
“ And in 1668-9	_____	2,063,274	19 0
		<hr/>	

“ And our Exports since the			
“ Prohibition in 1699 amount-			
“ ed to	_____	6,788,166	17 6
“ And in 1703	_____	6,644,103	0 0

“ Whereby it appears that we have exported in the two last Years *nine Millions, three hundred forty six thousand, One hundred eighty*  
 “ *two*

The Advance of our Exports since the Prohibition of French Goods.

Value of Woollen Manufactures exported in 1662 and 1668.

Also in 1699.

“ two Pounds fourteen Shillings and Six-pence,  
“ MORE than in the two first Years.

“ This prodigious Increase in our Expor-  
“ tations is certainly owing to the great In-  
“ crease of our Manufactures, and their In-  
“ crease to the Prohibition of the French  
“ Trade.

“ And it is very observable, that since our  
“ Silk Manufactures have been encouraged,  
“ they have greatly promoted the Exportation  
“ of Woollen Goods ; contrary to an Opini-  
“ on formerly propagated (to serve a Turn) of  
“ their being inconsistent with, and prejudi-  
“ cial to one another.

“ For in 1662, or in 1668, our exported  
“ Woollen Manufactures could not, in pro-  
“ portion to the general Export as aforesaid,  
“ exceed the Value of *nine hundred thousand*  
“ Pounds.

“ But in 1699 they amounted to *two Mil-  
“ lions nine hundred thirty two thousand, two  
“ hundred ninety two Pounds seventeen Shillings  
“ and Six-pence.*

“ It amounts then to a Demonstration,  
“ that there is an inseparable Dependence be-  
“ tween the Woollen and the Silk Manufac-  
“ tures ; and that as the unwrought Foreign  
“ Materials whereof our wrought Silks are  
“ made, meet with Encouragement or Dis-  
“ couragement here, the Woollen Manufac-  
“ tures wherewith they are purchased in *Tur-  
“ key and Italy*, will inevitably find the same  
“ Fate there.

“ The said Silk Manufacture having been  
“ supported by necessary Laws, is now com-  
“ puted

“puted to be about twenty times as great as  
 “it was in the fourteenth Year of the Reign  
 “of King *Charles II.* when the Company of  
 “Silk Throwers employed, in and about the  
 “City of *London*, FORTY THOUSAND  
 “Men, Women, and Children.

*The Increase of our  
 silk Manu-  
 factures  
 since the 14  
 of Car. II.*

“And must this Manufacture, which oc-  
 “casions such vast Exportations of our Wool-  
 “len Goods and other Products, that gives  
 “Employment to such Multitudes of her Ma-  
 “jesty’s Subjects, be Part of the SACRIFICE  
 “that some would make to *France*? What-  
 “soever the charitable Part of Mankind may  
 “think, the MISERABLE POOR will never  
 “conclude they can plead Ignorance for their  
 “Excuse.

“But when to this shall be superadded the  
 “Destruction of our Linen Manufactures,  
 “which are increased in *Great Britain* and  
 “*Ireland*, since the late Wars, at least 600,-  
 “000 *l. per Ann.* and that we shall lose the  
 “Exportation of a very great Part of 400,-  
 “000 *l.* yearly, to purchase Linens in *Ger-*  
 “*many*; besides the total Loss of our Paper  
 “Manufacture, and the Prejudice we must  
 “suffer in our distilled Spirits, &c. together  
 “with the *Malignant Influence* which the  
 “*French* Commerce will have on our *Portu-*  
 “*gal*, *Italian* and *Turky* Trades, that are now  
 “carried on to the inexpressible Benefit of the  
 “Kingdom:

*The Increase  
 of our Linen  
 Manufac-  
 tures.*

“What an incredible Sum will there be  
 “then annually lost to this Nation; and what  
 “Misery must it entail upon us?

“I must appeal to every unbiass’d Person  
 “living,



“ living, who is conversant in Trade, whether these (with many others that might be insisted on) are not the natural Consequences of letting in an INUNDATION of French Manufactures upon us.

“ And if this should ever be our Portion, have we any Reason to flatter our selves, that our present flourishing Trade must not dwindle to the wretched State it was in before the Prohibition of the French Commerce as aforesaid ?

“ For I shall make no scruple to assert, that the opening a free Trade with France can make us very little or no amends.

“ At present, it's allowed, we enjoy a considerable Advantage by that Trade, by their taking from us what they want ; but this being obtained by the Peace, not by the Treaty of Commerce, will remain, tho' the said Treaty should never be render'd effectual by a Law.

“ What can we further expect from France, if that Treaty was in force ?

*What if our Commodities are excluded, and heavily loaded by the late Treaty with France.*

“ Are not our salted Fish, Sugar, and the Product of Whales, excluded by the Articles subsequent to the Treaty ? Are not our Woollen Cloths, Serges, Perpets, Stuffs, and Says, (our principal Manufactures) liable by the Tariff of 1699 to an exorbitant Duty, from 30 to 50 per Cent. which will amount to a Prohibition ? And tho' it is pretended, that our other Manufactures are to pay by the Tariff of 1664 ; can it be imagined, that a Custom of 23 to 36 per Cent. (on all but Friezes and Cottons) as  
“ you

“ you have already proved, will not effectually prevent their Importation ?

“ Again, are not all our foreign Goods, and all our Manufactures made of foreign Materials, actually prohibited in *France* ? and has not the 5th Article of that Treaty establish’d those Prohibitions ?

“ Where then is the Equivalent for this monstrous Evil ? Can such Politicks as these procure it ? Is this the best Method our *Mercator* can prescribe to increase the Trade and the Stock of the Nation, and to repair the Damages sustain’d in the late War ?

“ But farther, after this Kingdom has been at a vast Expence for 20 Years together to fix our Manufactures, after our Legislators have made so many wise and excellent Laws to encourage the same, and with great Difficulty have settled such profitable Employments for the Poor ; is it just or reasonable to unravel the Constitution of our Home Trade at once, and force many thousand Families upon the LANDED INTEREST for a Maintenance ?

“ Can the most sanguine Abettors of the *French* Interest imagine, that any Gentlemen are so egregiously stupid, as to give the Nation such an incurable Wound ?

“ I remember it was observed by a late ingenious Author, that all Nations concur in this Maxim, *That the less they consume of foreign Commodities, the better it is for them.*

“ To which I will add another, tho’ to the same purpose, *That the Expence of foreign Manufactures is the worst Expence a Nation*

“ can

“ can be inclinable to, and therefore ought to be  
 “ prevented as much as possible.

“ Shall we then be cajoled into such a Com-  
 “ merce as this, which will send us again to  
 “ *France* for Manufactures that will soon drain  
 “ us of our Treasures, and augment the  
 “ Grandeur of that Nation, whose exorbitant  
 “ Power has cost us very lately so many Mil-  
 “ lions to reduce, and which grew to such  
 “ a Magnitude by pursuing steddily her Inte-  
 “ rest in foreign Trade?

*France  
 gain'd five  
 Millions by  
 Trade in the  
 North of  
 Europe be-  
 fore the late  
 Wars.*

“ Before the late Wars, is it not notorious  
 “ that *France* gain'd, upon the Ballance of her  
 “ Trade with the Northern Parts of *Europe*,  
 “ at least five Millions Sterling? And has she  
 “ not since introduced her Woollen Manu-  
 “ factures into many distant Countries, in  
 “ great abundance, to our vast Prejudice?

*Their Tur-  
 ky Trade  
 exceeds ours.*

“ How many are there of our *Turky* Mer-  
 “ chants, who remember the Time when  
 “ the *French* Imports into the Grand Seignior's  
 “ Dominions did not exceed 2 or 300 Cloths  
 “ per Ann. whereas now, the Value of their  
 “ Woollen Goods imported annually thither,  
 “ is greater than what ours, for several Years  
 “ past, at a Medium, have amounted to?

“ May it not then be fairly concluded, if  
 “ this Kingdom will favour them so far as to  
 “ take off their wrought Silks, which are  
 “ made of the raw Silks they bring from *Tur-  
 ky* and *Italy* in return for their Woollen  
 “ Cloths, Perpets, &c. that we could not fall  
 “ into properer Measures to fix the Woollen  
 “ Manufacture in *France*, and to prevent the  
 “ Exportation of our own? I am, Sir,

*Your Humble Servant, J. D. F.*

*I shall next consider the pretended Advantages we may have by the Exportation of Raw Silk from Great Britain and Turkey to France ; in answer to the following Letter.*

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

“ **T**HO’ you have effectually demon-  
“ strated the pernicious Consequences  
“ of opening a free Trade with *France*, and  
“ have fairly and fully exposed many of the  
“ Arguments urged in favour thereof ; yet we  
“ shall take the Liberty to put you in mind of  
“ one Argument for that Trade, which we  
“ are informed is of considerable Importance,  
“ or at least great Strefs is laid thereon, viz.  
“ That if the *French* Trade was open as  
“ formerly, tho’ the *French* would import  
“ their Silk Manufactures into this Kingdom,  
“ yet we should thereby retrieve a considera-  
“ ble Market for our Raw Silk in that King-  
“ dom, by exporting great Quantities both  
“ from hence, and directly from the *Levant*.  
“ And consequently that such a current  
“ Consumption for our Raw Silk would greatly  
“ promote our Trade to *Turkey*, and ruin the  
“ *French* Trade in those Parts, &c.  
“ Your Answer to this will oblige

S I R,

*Your Humble Servants,*

W. L. and S. K.

Ln

In answer to this Letter I shall assert in general, That if the *French* were permitted to import their Wrought Silks into this Kingdom, (as they will be, if ever the Treaty of Commerce should be rendered effectual) all the imaginary happy Consequences that can be deduced from that ill-grounded Supposition of our supplying *France* with Raw Silk, must prove vain Chimeras, mere empty Notions, tho' really well enough adapted to amuse the Ignorant, or those who are wilfully and obstinately blind.

But to descend to Particulars.

Raw Silk  
sold to  
France.

20 per Cent.  
in France  
on all Raw  
Silk from  
Turkey, &c.  
if landed in  
any foreign  
Country.

By the *Custom-House* Accounts laid before the last Parliament, it does not appear, that from *Michaelmas* 1668 to *Michaelmas* 1669, there was any Raw Silk re-exported from *London* to *France*; however, after the Restoration *France* did sometimes afford us a Market for this Commodity. But tho' the Quantity was not considerable, and that at least two thirds of all that was ever sold or exported for *France* was *Ardfs*, which is worth but about 9 s. per lib. weight, being the coarsest sort of *Persia* Raw Silk; yet so intent was the *French* King at this time upon encouraging the *Levant* Trade in his Dominions, that in *March* 1669 he issued out an Edict, whereby a Duty of 20 per Cent. was imposed on Raw Silk, and all other Goods from the *Levant*, which should be imported into *France*, provided they had been landed in *England*, or in any other foreign Country.

This was intended as a Prohibition to this Trade; but the Farmers of the Customs finding that this Edict would be prejudicial to their Farms,



Farms, and the Importation of Raw Silk from Turkey not being then sufficient to supply the Manufacturers, the Execution of this Edict was for some time conniv'd at, or rather dispensed with.

In this manner therefore the Trade in Raw Silk between France and other Countries in Christendom continued until August 1685, when an Arrest of Council was published, which enjoined a strict Execution of the aforefaid Edict of 1669.

To this the Farmers were obliged to have a greater regard than to the former, and the Importation by way of French Flanders was in a manner thereby prevented: But so it was, the Importation both of Raw Silk, and all Levant Goods from England, was still permitted; probably because if it had been otherwise, it would have sounded very harsh in the Ears of our Legislators, after they had in that very Year repealed the Statute of 1678, which prohibited the Importation of all their Manufactures and Products.

For, as I am informed, the Exportations of Raw Silk from London after that Arrest took place, stood thus;

Our Exportation of Raw Silk to France in 3 Years.

From	{ 1685 }	to	{ 1686 }	lib.	11722
Mich.	{ 1686 }		{ 1687 }		1391
	{ 1687 }		{ 1688 }		1952

In three Years, lib. 15075

which at a Medium cannot exceed 28 or 30 Bales per Ann. so that this was the advantageous Market, which was then enjoyed for our Raw

Raw Silk in *France* upon taking off that Prohibition.

About this time the Trade between *France* and *Turkey* being increased, it was again attempted to promote the Consumption of Raw Silk from the *Levant*, and to obstruct the Importation thereof at *Roan*, &c. by engaging the Manufacturers of *Lisle*, and others, to supply themselves with Raw Silk from *Marseilles*, as is evident from the Arrests of the 22d of *February* and 9th of *November* 1688. And by another Arrest of the 15th of *June* in the same Year, Transires or Permits were granted them, whereby they could have their Raw Silk from the said Port of *Marseilles* without paying any of those Duties, either of Importation or Exportation, to which the Traders to other Parts of the Kingdom were subject.

But the said two Arrests were by degrees laid aside, on pretence of facilitating the Importation of Silk and other Goods proper for the Manufactures of *Lisle*, &c.

*The sorts of  
Goods  
France sends  
to Turkey.*

This proving prejudicial to the *Levant* Company in *France*, (whose Trade begun now to flourish considerably) in 1692 they represented to his Majesty, That unless the Importation of *Levant Goods* from *Flanders* could be prevented, it would be impossible for them to carry on their Trade to *Turkey*, whereby the Exportation of several Manufactures of *France* would be obstructed, the principal whereof are Woollen Cloths, Perpets, Caps, Paper, &c.

It was further urged, That it was easier for his Majesty's Subjects of French *Flanders* to have their Raw Silk, &c. from them, than from  
Fa-

Foreigners, who by this pernicious Traffick drew considerable Sums from the Kingdom.

Hereupon on the 3d of July 1692. his Majesty ordains, That all Silks, and other Goods and Merchandizes coming from the Levant, &c. which have been landed in any other foreign Country, shall pay the Duties of 20 per Cent. ad Valorem. And his Majesty PROHIBITS all the said Goods and Merchandizes to be imported at any other Port or Place of the Kingdom, except only at the Port of Dunkirk and the City of Roan, paying the said Duties of 20 per Cent. And excludes and prohibits all other Ports and Passages, whether by Sea or Land, according to the aforesaid Arrest of the 15th of August 1685, on pain of Confiscation as well of the Goods as of the Horses, Waggon, Boats, Vessels, and other Carriages concerned in bringing the said Goods, and of 3000 Livres Fine for every Offence.

French Edict in favour of their Levant Trade.

Thus the Importation of Raw Silk into France, that had been landed in any Part of Christendom, whether in England, Holland, or Italy, was entirely prevented, not only during the Remainder of that War, but in the last Peace, and even to this present time, as well by the Subjects of France, as by Foreigners.

And in the French Book of Rates lately translated into English, fol. 384. after the List of those Merchandizes from the Levant, which are to pay 20 per Cent. ad valorem, according to the Arrest of the 15th of August 1685, it is noted, That SIKL FROM THE LEVANT is not comprised in this present List, because it is PROHIBITED BY THE KING'S ORDINANCE.

How-

The Dutch  
obtain'd the  
same Pri-  
vileges with  
the French,  
as to the  
Levant  
Trade.

However, it must be observed, That the Dutch, by the 9th Article of their Treaty with France, both at *Reswick* and *Utrecht*, did obtain, That as to the *Levant Trade* to France, and the 20 per Cent. raised on that Occasion, the Subjects of the States General of the United Provinces shall also enjoy the same Liberty and Freedom as the Subjects of the most Christian King; so as that the said Subjects of the States General shall be permitted to carry Merchandizes from the *Levant* to *Marseilles*, and other Places permitted in France, as well by their own Ships as in French Ships; and that the Subjects of the States General shall in neither Case be subject to the said 20 per Cent. unless in Cases where the French are subject to it for carrying Merchandize in their own Ships to *Marseilles*, and other Places permitted, and that no Alteration shall be made herein to the Prejudice of the Subjects of the said States General.

By this Article it is evident, the Dutch had no other Advantage granted to them by the Treaty of *Ryswick* than the English enjoy'd, (tho' we had no Treaty of Commerce with the French at that time) except a Liberty to import Goods and Merchandizes directly from the *Levant* to *Marseilles*, &c. since the Subjects of France, as well as of the United Provinces, were prohibited to import those Commodities from any Place in *Christendom*, without paying the Duty of 20 per Cent.

But the Interruption, not only of Commerce, but of Correspondence in France, during the late Wars, rendered us such Strangers to the Laws of that Kingdom, that it was apprehended

prehended this Article was of much greater Importance than it really was ; and therefore it was insisted on at *Utrecht*, and obtained under the general Rule in the 8th Article.

However, we have no Relief hereby as to the Exportation of our raw Silk to *France* ; nor should we have had any by the Treaty of Commerce, if it had been rendered effectual by a Law, being prohibited as aforesaid.

For by the 5th Article of the said Treaty it is stipulated, “ That the Subjects of each of “ their Royal Majesties may have leave and “ license to come with their Ships, as also “ with the Merchandizes and Goods on board “ the same (THE TRADE AND IMPOR- “ TATION WHEREOF ARE NOT “ PROHIBITED BY THE LAWS OF “ EITHER KINGDOM) to the Lands, “ Countries, &c. And that the Laws and “ Statutes of each Kingdom shall remain in “ full Force, and shall be duly put in Execu- “ tion, whether they relate to Commerce and “ Navigation, or to any other Right ; those “ Cases being only excepted, concerning which “ it is otherwise determined in the Articles of “ this present Treaty.”

*Our Import-  
ing of Raw  
Silk to  
France pro-  
hibited by  
the 5th  
Article.*

It is then very obvious, that unless the afore- said Prohibition of raw Silk is taken off by any subsequent Article in that Treaty, it must still remain in force.

But I cannot find that any other Prohibitions in *France* are to be repealed, than QUOAD BONA MERCESQUE MAGNÆ BRITANNIÆ, as far as they respect or relate to the Goods and Merchandize of Great Britain, as in the 9th Article.

And



And therefore I shall conclude, that all Prohibitions in *France* relating to foreign Goods, or to such as are manufactured with foreign Materials, are allowed, continued, and confirmed by this Treaty.

The Importation of raw Silk from *Great Britain* into *France* being prohibited, as aforesaid, it remains to be considered, whether we can reasonably expect any considerable Benefit by importing of raw Silk directly from *Turkey* to *Marseilles*.

Before these late Wars with *France*, our Trade from the *Levant* to *Marseilles* was very inconsiderable; however, now and then, a little Silk, some Wax, Sheeps-Wool, Goats-Hair, Drugs, Cotton-Wool, and Yarn, Pintadoes, Hides, &c. were sent thither; but it is much doubted whether, at a Medium, the whole Value of those Exports amounted to 4 or 5000 *l. per Annum*.

And I am very well assured, that the *Dutch*, during the last Peace, did not so much as dispatch one Ship from the *Levant* to *Marseilles*; neither were they known to be concerned on the *French* Ships which were in that Trade; so that their Commerce that way, if they had any, was carried on privately, and could be but of very small Importance.

Neither can either we or they ever expect any Benefit from that Market, unless we had equal Liberty with the *French Levant Company* to carry our Goods by Transires into all Parts of that Kingdom, and thro' it into other Countries.

For thereby they are discharged of the Duties which must otherwise be paid at *Lions*, and in every Province thro' which they pass, the *Peages du Robne*, of the Duty of 2 per Cent. *d'Aides*, *tiers sur Feaux*, *Quarantiene*, and other extraordinary Impositions and Duties whatsoever.

But this Indulgence is confined to the said *Levant* Company, and some few others, purely to encourage the Consumption of the Goods they import from *Turkey*, in return for what they export thither.

The *Sieur Magi* and his Partners, (who are Woollen Manufacturers in *Languedoc*) to obtain this Favour are obliged to export annually two thousand *Draps Londres*, or fine Cloths made in imitation of ours, at *Clermont*, *Septies*, &c. to the *Levant*, as may be seen in the Arrest of the second of *December*, 1692.

Whereby it also appears, " That the Merchants of *Marseilles* were enabled by the said Transires, to discharge and sell out of the Kingdom one Part of the Merchandize which they import from the *Levant* to other Countries."

If then there Importations of all *Levant* Goods in 1692 were so great, that they had sufficient for their own Manufactures in *France*, and a SURPLUS to sell to Foreigners, certainly we have little reason to flatter our selves that *Marseilles* can take off our *Levant* Commodities, when we reflect either on what has been already mentioned, or on the prodigious Increase of their Trade since that time.

[*Marseilles* can't take off our *Levant* Goods, because they have a Surplus of their own.

*Great In-  
crease of the  
French  
Trade at  
Turkey.*

My aforesaid Correspondents, and my Readers, may hereafter expect an ample Account of this ungrateful Scene ; but at present I shall only assert, that about 30 Years ago the *French Trade to Turkey* was very inconsiderable ; whereas, since the Conclusion of the Peace, the *French Merchants* being encouraged by the Hopes of a free Trade with *Great Britain*, and probably well supported by better Purfes than their own, have vastly extended their Commerce in the Grand Signior's Dominions, their Ships carrying down great Quantities of Cloth and Woollen Goods, besides divers other rich Commodities.

To which must be added the prodigious Sums they import into *Turkey* in Pieces of Eight, often 50,000, and 100,000, and sometimes 150,000 by a single Ship ; whereby they are enabled to dispose of their Cloth in Quantity, and have several times since the aforesaid Period engross'd both the fine and coarse Silk upon the first Arrival of the *Persia* Caravans ; and it's needless to insist on the large Parcels of other sorts of Goods which they daily engage in.

*Admitting  
French  
Wrought  
Silk, esta-  
blishes their  
Levant  
Trade, and  
ruins ours.*

Well therefore might one of my Correspondents say, that the *French Nation* is immoderately bent upon enlarging her Traffick, &c. and I am afraid, if we should grant them a Market for their wrought Silks, we should at the same time establish their Trade, and ruin our own in the *Levant*.

I must now beg leave to produce another Letter to clear the old Scheme, given by our Merchants to the Lords Commissioners for the Treaty

Treaty of Commerce with *France* in 1674, from the vile Reflections cast on it by the *Mercator*: but as the plainest Conviction of the Truth of that Scheme, I must first give some Extracts out of his Papers, wherein he insists on *Custom-house Books* as infallible, and dares us to appeal to them, as he does; but afterwards denies their Validity, and calls them all Fallacy and Cheat: To such wretched Shifts were the Authors and Supporters of the Treaty of Commerce, who employed the *Mercator* as their Amanuensis, reduced.

MERCATOR Numb. 36.

*Are not the Custom-house Books open? Have not both Sides given Schemes said to be taken from those Books, &c.*

*To what Purpose do these Men beat the Bush, and dance in a Circle? THE CUSTOM-HOUSE IS A RECORD OF THESE THINGS, and may be referred to, even back to 1664, and further if they please, &c.*

*The Mercator appeals to the Custom-house Books, and the Custom-house Books must be right, and may be searched; Now these Men dare not do it, &c.*

MERCATOR Numb. 149.

*To call then for the Accounts of Exports and Imports from the Custom-house Books, and to make a Judgment from them of the Trade to France, is to covet being cheated, to call for an Evidence, who, we are assured before-hand, can give no true Account of the Matter.*

*What then is become of all your Schemes, and Draughts, and Sums from the Custom-house,*  
O 2 by

*by which the Clamours against the French Trade are supported? It is evident the Judgment made from them is all Fallacy and Cheat.*

*A LETTER containing a Vindication  
of the OLD SCHEME.*

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

“ THE Letter which I wrote you the  
“ 9th of *December* last, being only in-  
“ tended to remove those vile and infamous  
“ Reflections which have been cast upon those  
“ Gentlemen, who published in 1674 a  
“ Scheme of the Trade between *England* and  
“ *France*, in the Commodities of the Native  
“ Product and Manufacture of each Coun-  
“ try.

“ I was in hopes, after the Inspector-Ge-  
“ neral (who must be allowed to be a proper  
“ Judge of the *Custom-house* Accounts) had  
“ upon Oath given such entire Credit to the  
“ Manuscript which he mentions, in his first  
“ Report to the Commissioners of Accounts,  
“ that the *Mercator* might have at least allow-  
“ ed, it was possible, if not probable, the  
“ said Gentlemen had given the best Account  
“ they had been able to procure, to those no-  
“ ble Lords of his Majesty’s Council who en-  
“ gaged them in that Work.

“ For I must insist on it, that it’s very rea-  
“ sonable to conclude, the said Manuscript,  
“ or the Accounts from whence it was drawn,  
“ were the Foundation of that Scheme.

“ And



“ And I cannot omit another Argument to  
 “ prove Dr. *Davenant*’s firm Belief of the Va-  
 “ lidity of that Manuscript, which is, That  
 “ upon this Authority, he not only grounds his  
 “ Report of the State of the *French Trade* in  
 “ 1662-3 and 1668-9, but also the State of  
 “ the whole Trade of the Nation for those  
 “ two Years, which stands thus :

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
“ Anno 1662	{ Imports	—	4,016,019	18	0	<i>A Scheme of our Trade from 1662 to 1663, and 1668 to 1669.</i>
“ to 1663 —	{ Exports	—	2,022,812	04	0	
			<hr/>			
“ The Imports exceed the Exp.			1,993,207	14	0	
“ Anno 1668	{ Imports	—	4,196,139	17	0	
“ to 1669 —	{ Exports	—	2,063,274	19	0	
			<hr/>			
“ The Imp. exceed the Exports			2,132,864	18	0	

“ This then is certain, that an Abstract  
 “ had been drawn out of the Books of En-  
 “ tries, of the Quantities of Goods exported  
 “ to and imported from all Parts, to which  
 “ we traded in those two Years; and the  
 “ Doctor says, *It was drawn out almost in the*  
 “ *same Form as the Ledgers in his Office are now*  
 “ *kept.*

“ Is it not then much more reasonable to  
 “ believe, that those old Accounts which were  
 “ regularly and fairly drawn out at leisure,  
 “ must be exacter than these new Accounts,  
 “ which were laid by the Officers of the *Cus-*  
 “ *tom-house* before the last Parliament, which  
 “ were extracted in a hurry, and consequently  
 “ liable to Errors?

“ Besides, I cannot reject the Objections  
 “ you have formerly made against all Accounts  
 O 3 “ which

“ which are, or may be NOW brought  
 “ from the *Custom-house* of the Transactions  
 “ of those times.

“ Tho’ I will not suppose that either the  
 “ present Commissioners, or the Officers who  
 “ signed those Accounts, would deliver out  
 “ any Account that appeared to them to be  
 “ false or unjust.

“ For which Reason, and to oblige the  
 “ *Mercator*, since he has taken such pains to  
 “ justify these *Custom-house* Accounts, I am  
 “ resolved (whether they are right or wrong)  
 “ to allow them their full force.

“ For I am not contending, whether the  
 “ Woollen Manufactures exported to *France*  
 “ in 1668-9 amount to 61456 *l.* as by the  
 “ Scheme, or 68521 *l.* 17 *s.* as by Dr. *Davenant’s* Reports, or 93396 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.* according to the *Custom-house* Account, as is calculated in your *British Merchant*.

“ The Difference between the least and the  
 “ greatest of these Valuations is but 31850 *l.*  
 “ 5 *s.* 6 *d.* and what a Trifle is this to the  
 “ Ballance of 965,128 *l.* 17 *s.* 4 *d.* which  
 “ the Scheme chargeth to the Debtor of the  
 “ *French* Trade, exclusive of re-exported foreign Goods?

“ But the *Mercator* having with the greatest  
 “ Assurance declared, not only that this Scheme  
 “ is manifestly detected of Forgery and Deceit, but that the Trade between *England*  
 “ and *France* has been always a beneficial  
 “ Trade to this Kingdom; and having also  
 “ treated you with the greatest Rudeness and  
 “ Indecency; I cannot but esteem my self

“ so

“ so far concerned, as to attempt the Support  
“ thereof, and to justify as far as I am able,  
“ those honest and worthy Patriots, who de-  
“ liver’d that Scheme to the Right Honoura-  
“ ble the Lords Commissioners appointed for  
“ the Treaty of Commerce with *France* in  
“ 1674, together with their humble Desires in  
“ behalf of the English Merchants trading to  
“ France, and of the English Trade; and I  
“ submit the whole to the Correction of every  
“ proper and impartial Person whatsoever.

“ The main Question therefore that ought  
“ to be resolved, is this :

“ What will the Goods and Merchandizes  
“ exported to and imported from *France* from  
“ *Michaelmas* 1668, to *Michaelmas* 1669, to-  
“ gether with the Wine and Brandy which are  
“ computed by the Scheme, according to the  
“ Consumption in 1674, amount to ? and  
“ then how will the Ballance stand ?

“ I shall therefore examine, not what in-  
“ duced those Gentlemen to leave us such an  
“ Argument against the *French Trade*, but  
“ how far the *Custom-house* Accounts, which  
“ were laid before the last Parliament, and  
“ such others as I shall refer to, will prove  
“ sufficient Vouchers, to engage our Assent to  
“ the Truth of their Computations.

“ In order then to clear up this Controversy,  
“ I shall in the first place present you with an  
“ Abstract of the said Scheme, which is enti-  
“ tled as follows :

*Our Scheme of Trade with France in 1674, as given in by the Merchants, Vinculated.*

A SCHEME OF THE TRADE as it is at present carried on between England and France, in the Commodities of the Native Product and Manufactures of each Country, calculated as exactly as possible, &c.

“ Wherein it is asserted, that there was exported to France from the Port of London, according to the Custom-house Books, from Michaelmas 1668 to Michaelmas 1669.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
“ In Woollen Manufactures —	61	54	00
“ In English wrought Silks —	19	20	00

“ Exported from London in Manufactures —	63	46	00
--	----	----	----

“ Exports from the Out-Ports, computed at one third more	21	55	68
--	----	----	----

“ Exported from England in Manufactures —	84	621	68
---	----	-----	----

“ And in several Products, viz.

“ Lead 2500 Fodder at 12 <i>l.</i>	30000	00	00
------------------------------------	-------	----	----

“ Tin 6000 Hund. wt. 4 <i>l.</i>	24000	00	00
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“ Allum 100 Tuns 24 <i>l.</i>	2400	00	00
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“ Calves Skins, and Leather	10000	00	00
-----------------------------	-------	----	----

“ And in all other Goods to the

“ Value of — — —	20000	00	00
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“ Total of the Exports to France

“ in said Year computed at	171021	68	
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“ And the Imports into England

“ from France in several sorts of

“ Linens amount to —	507250	40	
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“ Wrought Silks 150000 at 2 <i>l.</i>	300000	00	00
---------------------------------------	--------	----	----

“ Wine Tuns 11000 at 12 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	37500	00	00
--	-------	----	----

“ Brandy, Tuns 4000 20 <i>l.</i>	80000	00	00
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“ Paper, Reams 160000 5 <i>s.</i>	40000	00	00
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“ Pruens, Feathers, Salt and Rozin	16400	00	00
------------------------------------	-------	----	----

“ Kid-skins			
-------------	--	--	--

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
" Kid-Skins 5000 Hund. 3 <i>l.</i>	15000	0	0
" In all other Goods ———	40000	0	0
<hr/>			
" Total of the Imports from <i>France</i>			
" are computed at ——— —	1136150	4	0
" Deduct the Amount of the Ex-			
" ports to <i>France</i> as aforesaid	171021	6	8
<hr/>			
" Ballance gained by the <i>French</i>			
" from us yearly ——— —	965128	17	4
" Besides all manner of Toys, Fans, Gloves,			
" Laces, Point Laces, embroider'd Garments and			
" Beds, to an incredible Value.			

Signed by

<i>Patience Ward,</i>	<i>John Houghe,</i>
<i>Tho. Papillon,</i>	<i>John Mervin,</i>
<i>James Houblon,</i>	<i>Peter Paravicine,</i>
<i>William Bellamy,</i>	<i>John Dubois,</i>
<i>Michael Godfrey,</i>	<i>Benj. Godfrey,</i>
<i>George Toriano,</i>	<i>Edmond Harrison,</i>
<i>John Houblon,</i>	<i>Benj. De Laune.</i>

" These were the Merchants, all of them  
 " great Traders to *France*, who signed the se-  
 " veral Papers, which were presented with  
 " this Scheme, to the Lords Commissioners,  
 " as was before hinted : for their Lordships  
 " being entirely satisfied in their great Expe-  
 " rience, known Abilities, and unquestioned  
 " Integrity, and withal to testify their own  
 " Care and Concern for the publick Good and  
 " the Welfare and Prosperity of the Trade of  
 " the Nation, required these Gentlemen to  
 " render them their Opinions, relating to the  
 " settling of a fair Commercial Treaty be-  
 " tween both Nations.



“ With this Command they honestly and  
 “ justly complied, without the least regard  
 “ either to Party or their own private Interest,  
 “ as may be seen at large in their aforesaid  
 “ Papers.

“ But such is the Iniquity of the *Mercator*  
 “ and his Friends, that they have in several  
 “ of his Papers represented this Scheme as a  
 “ most unfair and partial Calculation, a design-  
 “ ed Collusion, than which nothing can be more  
 “ corrupt; that it was in it self a Design disho-  
 “ nest, a shameful Paper, a horrid Roguery, a  
 “ cursed, open, naked Cheat, &c.

“ However he cannot without some Shame  
 “ and Confusion remember, how grossly he  
 “ has imposed on his Readers, and how inju-  
 “ riously he has treated the said Merchants,  
 “ first by charging their Scheme with a Fraud  
 “ in its Title, and then branding them with  
 “ the scandalous Names of Cheats, &c. for  
 “ giving a Scheme of the Trade as it was then  
 “ carried on between *England* and *France*, and  
 “ omitting therein the re-exported foreign  
 “ Goods. Whereas it is he himself that has  
 “ falsified the Title, by striking out the three  
 “ last Lines thereof,

“ *In the Commodities of the native Product*  
 “ *and Manufactures of each Country, cal-*  
 “ *culated as exactly as possible, &c.*

“ But by the true Title of the Scheme, as  
 “ aforesaid, it is obvious at first sight, that  
 “ they had only a regard to the Trade in the  
 “ Commodities of the *native Product and Ma-*  
 “ *nufacture*

“ *nufacture of each Country* ; and it appears  
“ now by the Manuscript mentioned by Dr.  
“ *Davenant*, that they could give no other  
“ Account, and therefore they frankly and  
“ fairly declare by the Title, what was in-  
“ tended, tho’ this Man has basely and trea-  
“ cherously represented it otherwise.

“ The Scheme being thus vindicated in its  
“ Title and Design, I shall in the next place  
“ give you an Abridgment of the *Custom-House*  
“ Accounts, which were laid, as aforesaid,  
“ before the last Parliament.

“ Whereby it will appear, wherein the  
“ Scheme and those *Custom-House* Accounts  
“ differ.

“ The Valuation of the Particulars is ac-  
“ cording to the Rates made use of in the  
“ Scheme, as far as they will serve; being  
“ satisfied the Authors thereof were perfectly  
“ acquainted with the Prices of all sorts of  
“ Goods, not only at *home*, but in *France*,  
“ from whence they received annually vast  
“ Quantities ; and the rest is supply’d ac-  
“ cording to the best Informations I could ob-  
“ tain.

“ And because the Quantities, or total Va-  
“ lue of our Manufactures and Products ex-  
“ ported from the Out-Ports, and of several  
“ Goods and Merchandizes imported at the  
“ Out-Ports, could not be ascertained by any  
“ other better Rule, they are determined by  
“ the same Proportions as the Exports and Im-  
“ ports from and at the Out-Ports in 1685-6,  
“ bear to the Exports and Imports of the same  
“ Year at *London*.

“ Whereby

“ Whereby the Objection made by the  
 “ Commissioners of the *Customs* against the  
 “ Computation in the Scheme, relating to the  
 “ Value of what was exported from the Out-  
 “ Ports, (being one third of the Value of the  
 “ Manufactures exported from *London*) is fully  
 “ answered.

“ However, it must be observed, that the  
 “ Officers at the *Custom-house*, both before  
 “ and after 1674, were generally governed  
 “ in their Calculations by that proportion, and  
 “ it exceeds the present *Inspector-General's*  
 “ Rule, in his first Report, fol. 12.

“ This is mentioned, not because a general  
 “ Rule adhered to in the *Custom-house*, is to  
 “ be observed either in this, or in many other  
 “ particuler Cases.

“ But to shew how it came to be made use  
 “ of in the Scheme : for this Scheme was  
 “ drawn and prepared by the proper Officers  
 “ in the *Custom-house*, and is enter'd in those  
 “ Books, tho' the present Commissioners can-  
 “ not find that the same was prepared by Order  
 “ of their Predecessors.

Goods ex-  
 ported from  
 London  
 from Mi-  
 chaelmas  
 1668 to  
 1669, by  
 the Custom-  
 house  
 Account.

“ The Particulars of the Goods and Mer-  
 “ chandizes exported from the Port of *Lon-*  
 “ *don* from *Michaelmas* 1668 to *Michaelmas*  
 “ 1669, as by the *Custom-house* Account, are  
 “ as follow :

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Woollen Manufactures valued as a- foresaid at ————	93396	5	6
Wrought Silks, <i>lib.</i> 473½. 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	1183	15	0
Lead 970 Fod. 11 hund. wt. 12 <i>l.</i>	11646	15	0
Tin hund. wt 996¾. 14 <i>lib.</i> 4 <i>l.</i>	3987	10	0
Allom, 393 hund. wt. 1 <i>l.</i> 4 <i>s.</i>	471	12	0
	Tann'd		

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Tann'd Leather 4558 $\frac{1}{2}$ hund. computed, viz. $\frac{1}{3}$ part at 6 <i>d.</i> $\frac{1}{3}$ at 9 <i>d.</i> and $\frac{1}{3}$ at 12 <i>d.</i> per lib.	19146	15	0
Unrated Goods	9990	15	6
In other Manufactures and Products	11500	0	0
	151323	8	0

Products, Manufactures, and foreign Goods exported from the Out-Ports, according to the Proportion of what was exported from the Out-Ports in 1685-6, computed at one half part of what was exported in Manufactures and Products from London, amount to

From the  
Out-Ports.

75661 14 0

226985 2 0

Foreign Goods re-exported from London.

43980 lib. wt Cotton Wool, at 6 <i>d.</i>	1099	10	0	Foreign Goods re- exported from Lon- don.
23615 lib. wt Cotton Yarn, at 12 <i>d.</i>	1180	15	0	
1914 $\frac{1}{2}$ hund. wt Gauls, at 3 <i>l.</i>	5743	10	0	
50977 lib. wt Goat Hair, at 2 <i>s.</i>	5097	14	0	
160816 lib. Tobacco, at 3 <i>d.</i>	2010	4	6	
204 Tuns of Oil, at 30 <i>l.</i>	6120	0	0	
6080 h. 2 qrs 3 lib Sug. bought at 25 <i>s.</i>	7600	13	0	
224859 lib. wt Pepper bl. at 9 <i>d.</i>	8432	4	3	
7995 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pieces of Callicoes, at 15 <i>s.</i>	5996	12	6	
8481 lib. Indico, at 3 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	1484	3	6	
765 doz. Goats-Skins, at 2 <i>l.</i>	1530	0	0	
In Drugs and other Goods	17200	0	0	
	63495	6	9	

Total of the Exports to France in  
1668-9, computed at

290480 8 9

“ The

“ The Account and Value of the Goods and Merchandizes imported from *France* in the said Year, is next to be ascertain’d.

Defect of  
the Custom-  
house Ac-  
counts.

“ But it must be observed, that these *Custom-house* Accounts are very defective in not taking notice of the Wine and unrated Goods imported at *London*, nor of any Goods imported in the Out-Ports.

“ For the *Inspector-General* has given an Account, fol. 15 and 16, of the Wines imported into the Port of *London* from *France*.

“ Both in 1662-3.

“ And in 1668-9.

“ And therefore it is VERY STRANGE it should be asserted, that the *Books of Entries for Wines, ending at Michaelmas 1669* are not to be found; and the Omission of the unrated Goods is so gross, that it’s shrewdly to be suspected, they are defective in other Articles.

Supply’d by  
another of  
their Ac-  
counts,

“ However, to supply part of these Defects, I shall take to my Assistance another *Custom-house* Account, which was formerly laid by the Farmers of the *Customs* before a House of Commons, and was produced before the last House of Commons, as an Evidence to confirm the Authority of the Old Scheme: It’s entitled, *An Account of Liquors and French Linens imported at the Port of London and Out-Ports from Michaelmas 1667 to Michaelmas 1669.*

Which is signed by  
*Jos. Dawson*, per Coll.  
*E. Brewer*, per Comp.

*Tho.*



# The Trade with France.

303

*Tho. Kynaston, per Sr.  
John Wolstenholm,  
John Shaw,  
E. Turner.*

“ Whereby it appears there were import-  
“ ed into *England*, in those two Years, Li-  
“ nens of the Manufacture of *France*, as fol-  
“ lows.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
106442 Pieces of Lockrams, at 6 <i>l.</i>	6386	52	00
3003 Pieces dyed Linens, at 1 <i>l.</i>	3003	00	00
10281 Yards Diaper Tabling, at 2 <i>s.</i>	1028	20	00
53063 Yds Diap. Napkining, at 1 <i>s.</i>	2653	30	00
9753 h. Ells, <i>Norman</i> Canvas, at 7 <i>l.</i>	6827	10	00
34712 h. El. <i>Vitry &amp; Noy</i> Canv. at 6 <i>l.</i>	2082	72	00
4533 Pair of old Sheets, at 5 <i>s.</i>	1133	50	00
2257 Bolts of <i>Poldarvies</i> , at 15 <i>s.</i>	1692	15	00
4798 Pcs of Kentings, at 1 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	7197	00	00
155 h. El. packing Canv. at 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	387	10	00
800 Shirts valued at	64	00	00

Imported in the said two Years by  
this Account *French* Linens, a-  
mounting to ——— 932353 15 0  
The half part of the said 932353 *l.*  
15 *s.* being the Medium of one  
Year, is ——— 466176 17 6

“ Imported from the 19th of *October* 1668  
“ to the 20th of *October* 1669, other sorts of  
“ Linens, which are omitted in the aforefaid  
“ Account, but are inserted in the Account  
“ from the *Custom-house*, which was laid before  
“ the last Parliament.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
300 h. Ells Cloth of <i>Brittany</i> , at 6 <i>l.</i> 13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> ———	2000	00	00
	1380	79	

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
138079 Ells of Courtray, at 5 <i>s.</i>	34519	15	0
1185 Ells of Ifingham Cloth, at 5 <i>s.</i>	296	5	0
809 Pieces of Quintins, at 10 <i>s.</i> —	404	10	0
1362 doz. of Buckrams, at 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	3405	0	0
And for several other small Parcels of Cloth — — — —	155	0	0

By this Medium of the Farmer's Account, and by the aforesaid *Custom-house* Accounts, the Linens imported from *France* in 1668-9 are computed at ———— 506957 7 6

“ If it should be objected against this Article, in the Farmer's Account,  
“ That the Out-Ports could not take off  
“ so great a Quantity of Linens, as will appear to be wanting by the said *Custom-house* Account, to answer this Sum of 506957 *l.*  
“ 7 *s.* 6 *d.*

I answer, That the Linens imported in this Year, at the Port of *London*, as by the said *Custom-house* Account, according to the aforesaid Valuation will amount to about 247000 0 0

And consequently the Linens imported at the Out-Ports are only valued at ———— 259957 7 6

This being the Total of this Year's Import ———— 506957 7 6

“ Whereas, if you compare the Proportion  
“ of what was imported in 1685-6, at the  
“ Out-Ports, with what was imported the  
“ same Year into *London*,

“ You

“ You will find the Difference between  
“ *London* and the Out-Ports in that Year,  
“ was much greater than is before-mention-  
“ ed.

l.

For then, according to this Valuation,  
there was imported into the Port of *Lon-*  
*don*, Linens to the Value of ——— 179000  
And into the Out-Ports to the Value of 297000

Total Amount of the Linens imported,  
as by the *Custom-house* Accounts in 1685-6, 476000

“ Which though short of the Value of what  
“ was imported in 1668-9, yet the Value of  
“ what was then imported at the Out-Ports is  
“ 37042 *l.* 12 *s.* 6 *d.* more than is charged  
“ in this Year.

“ And if it should be further objected, that  
“ these Linens are valued at higher Rates than  
“ you have valued the Linens imported in  
“ 1685, which I observe was according to the  
“ *Custom-house* Valuation;

“ I shall only add what the Gentlemen who  
“ published this Scheme mention, in their Re-  
“ port to the Lords Commissioners, *viz.*

“ That the Silks and Linens imported from  
“ *France* into *England*, are one with another  
“ charged but after the Rate of 5 *per Cent.*  
“ for though by the Book of Rates for Subsidy  
“ and Additional Duty, the said Commodities  
“ are rated to pay about 7 *per Cent.* yet they  
“ being undervalued in their Prices, the Du-  
“ ties levied on them, do not in the general  
“ exceed 5 *per Cent.* of their real and true  
“ Values.

“ I

“ I shall proceed to the Article of wrought  
 “ Silks, of which the Farmers Account makes  
 “ no mention, and the *Custom-house* Account  
 “ only takes notice of.

“ lb. 6630  $\frac{1}{4}$  Imported into the Port of  
 “ *London*; for, as aforefaid, there is no Ac-  
 “ count of what was imported in 1668-9 into  
 “ the Out-Ports.

“ (Tho’ by the Commissioners Report to  
 “ the Lords, *all the Out-Ports Books were not*  
 “ *wanting*; if therefore they have the Accounts  
 “ from *Dover* and *Deal*, it would soon be  
 “ found, what Quantities of wrought Silks  
 “ were imported that Year.)

“ Neither does the Scheme pretend to give  
 “ an exact Account of what was imported,  
 “ but computes it at lb 150000 wt. *per Ann.*  
 “ which at 2 *l.* per lb wt. amounts to 300,-  
 “ 000 *l.*

“ However the Authors therein note,

15000 *l.*  
*Custom paid*  
*at Dover for*  
*French Silk.*

“ That in 1674 there was received at the  
 “ Port of *Dover* only (as they were informed)  
 “ 15000 *l.* for the Custom of wrought Silks:  
 “ so that considering what may be conveyed  
 “ away privately, and that great Quantities are  
 “ worth from 3 *l.* to 4 *l.* the lb weight, they  
 “ believe the wrought Silks may amount to  
 “ much more in value than what is above.

“ And if any one would inform himself from  
 “ those *French* Factors, who are still living,  
 “ and were at that time in *London*, of the vast  
 “ Quantities of *French* wrought Silks, that  
 “ were then sold in that City, they would be  
 “ soon convinced, that there was annually  
 “ imported at least double the Quantity which  
 “ is mentioned in the Scheme. This

“ This is also proved beyond all Contra-  
 “ diction, by the prodigious Increase of that  
 “ Manufacture in this Kingdom, and by the  
 “ yearly Importations of raw and thrown  
 “ Silk, which are now much greater than in  
 “ those Days; the Manufacture whereof, ex-  
 “ clusive of the Cost of the Silk, amount to  
 “ a much greater Sum than is above-menti-  
 “ oned.

“ But lest it should be doubted, whether  
 “ there was ever any considerable Quantity  
 “ brought to *England* in one Year, you have  
 “ already proved, that in 1685-6 there was  
 “ imported into *London*, 5906  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb

“ And into the Out-Ports,  
 “ besides what might be im-  
 “ ported, during the *Michael-*  
 “ *mas* Quarter, in 1686 at  
 “ *Deal, &c.* ————— 115591

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121497  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb

“ Which tho’ a less Quantity than is com-  
 “ puted by the Scheme, yet according to your  
 “ Valuation at 50 s. *per* lb weight amounts to  
 “ 303743 l. 15 s.

“ And he that knows any thing of the  
 “ Price of wrought Silks, must allow you  
 “ have not exceeded the Medium.

“ Neither is it to be imagin’d, that the  
 “ Merchants who drew this Scheme, exceeded  
 “ the Quantity of what was fairly imported in  
 “ 1674.

“ So that upon this Foot this Article could  
 “ not be over-valued; but on the contrary,  
 “ if



French  
Wine im-  
ported an-  
nually.

“ if the clandestine Importations were to be  
“ added, I have good Reason to believe it  
“ would amount to near 800000 *l.* *per An-*  
“ *num.*

“ As to the Computation, that 11000  
“ Tuns of *French Wine* were then annually  
“ imported into this Kingdom ;

“ It is plain by the Farmers Account, that  
“ from *Michaelmas* 1667 to *Michaelmas* 1669,  
“ there was imported 21471 Tuns.

“ From *Michaelmas* 1672 to *Michaelmas*  
“ 1674, the Merchants assert in their afore-  
“ said Report, that there was imported into  
“ *London* 22500 Tuns.

“ By the *Custom-house* Accounts laid before  
“ the last Parliament, the Medium of what  
“ was imported into *London* in 1675, 76, 77,  
“ and 78, is 8535 Tuns *per Annum.* And  
“ the Medium for 1686, 87, 88, 89, was  
“ 13401 Tuns *per Annum.*

“ Let the *Mercator* then add the just Pro-  
“ portion for what was imported at the Out-  
“ Ports, and he will hardly be able to per-  
“ suade any reasonable Man in the Kingdom  
“ that this was a partial Calculation.

Brandy.

“ The Brandies are next in course to be  
“ considered ; the Scheme supposes that we  
“ should take from *France* 4000 Tuns *per An-*  
“ *num,* not, as the *Mercator* has been persua-  
“ ding his Readers, that 4000 Tuns were af-  
“ ferted to be imported in 1668-9.

“ On the contrary, the Merchants asserted,  
“ that the Quantity imported from *Michaelmas*  
“ 1663 to *Michaelmas* 1664 was so small,  
“ that it deserves not to be noted.

“ That

“ That from *Michaelmas* 1667 to *Michaelmas* 1669, there was imported into *London* but 3000 Tuns: And by the Farmers Account the total Import in the said two Years amounted only to 3775 Tuns.

“ But from *Michaelmas* 1671 to *Michaelmas* 1673, there was imported into the Port of *London* 7315 Tuns, besides what was imported into the Out-Ports; which were the two preceding Years before they made this Calculation.

“ Since therefore the Consumptions of *French Brandy* encreased yearly very much from 1663 to 1674, they could not conclude that less than 4000 Tuns were then spent, or would for the future be imported.

“ I shall now return to the *Custom-house* Accounts, to adjust both the Quantities and the Prices of the remaining Goods that were imported in 1668-9.

“ Whereby it is obvious the following *Paper*, cels of *Paper* were imported into *London* in that Year.

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>
Bundles	430 Brown, at 3 <i>s.</i>	64	10
Reams	650 Cap, at 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	243	15
	1593 Demy, at 15 <i>s.</i>	1194	15
	155411 Ordinary, at 5 <i>s.</i>	38852	15
	33 Painted, 13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	22	
	438 Royal, at 2 <i>l.</i>	876	
	158555	41253	15

The Proportion for the Out-Ports is computed on the Quantity at 14 per Cent. which makes Reams

22197, at 5 <i>s.</i> per Ream	5549	5	0
Total of the Amount of the Paper	46803	0	0
			“ By

“ By the same Account there was imported  
 “ into the Port of *London* in the said Year,

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Salt, Rosin,	1346 Weys of Salt, at 2 <i>l.</i>	2692	00	
Pruens, and	5300 hund. wt of Rosin, at 8 <i>s.</i>	2120	00	
Feathers.	9646 $\frac{1}{2}$ hund. wt Pruens, at 15 <i>s.</i>	7234	17	6
	451 $\frac{1}{2}$ hund. wt Feathers, at 5 <i>l.</i>	2258	15	0

---

14305 12 6

And for the Proportion of the Out-Ports since the Amount of the said Commodities imported at *London* in 1685-6, according to the aforesaid Valuation, was

And at the Out-Ports	21354 12 3
It is computed accordingly at	57751 12 3
	38687 00

---

Total of the Value thereof 52992 12 6

*Kid-skins.* The Kid-skins imported into *London* by the said Account from the *Custom-house*, are 4309 hund. and 70 Skins, which at 3 *l.* per hun. amounts to

12929 2 0

The Importations at the Out-Ports are computed at 5 per Cent.

646 9 6

---

The Kid-skins amount to 13575 11 6

And the Value of all other Goods imported into *London*, as by the said *Custom-house* Account, is computed at

28200 00

Unrated Goods, tho' omitted in that Account, concluded to amount to as much as in 1685-6

13558 4 6

The Proportion for the Out-Ports, calculated at one third of what is imported at *London*,

13919 8 2

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Total 55677 12 8

“ According

# The Trade with France.

311

“ According to the aforefaid Calculations,  
“ the whole Account ftands as follows.

## IMPORTED.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Linens of all Sorts	506957	7	6
Wrought Silks, at leaft	300000	0	0
Wine, 11000 Tuns, at 12 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	137500	0	0
Brandy, 4000 Tuns, at 20 <i>l.</i>	80000	0	0
Paper, 180752 Reams	46803	0	0
Salt, Rozin, Pruens, and Feathers	52992	12	6
Kid-fkins	13575	11	6
In all other Goods and Merchandizes	55677	12	8

Total of the Value of Goods and Merchandizes imported from *Fr.* in 1668-9, together with the Wine and Brandy, which are computed according to the Consumption in 1674 — — — 1193506 4 2

Deduct the total Value of what was exported from *Engl.* to *France* in 1668-9, as aforefaid — 290480 8 9

The Imports exceed the Exports, or there was annually loft by our Trade with *France*, — 903025 15 5  
Difference between this Ball. and the Ballance by the Scheme, but 62103 1 11

*Ballance loft by France.*

The Ballance, as by the Scheme, being as aforefaid, — — — 965128 17 4

“ Upon the whole, you will obferve,  
“ that I have made an Allowance for the  
“ greateft Objections to which this Scheme  
“ was liable :

“ Having

l. s. d.

Having charged for the Amount  
of our re-exported foreign Goods  
shipp'd for *France*, — — —

63495 6 9

For the Difference in the Quan-  
tity of Woollen Manufactures be-  
tween the Scheme and the *Custom-  
house* Accounts, — — —

31850 5 6

And instead of computing what  
was exported from the Out-Ports  
at one third, as in the Scheme, I  
have allowed the half of what was  
exported from *London*, the Diffe-  
rence whereof is — — —

25220 11 4

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In all 120566 3 7

“ Tho’ it is very apparent, the Merchants  
“ who drew the Scheme must be discharged  
“ from the least Imputation of Partiality in  
“ these Particulars, as long as the *Inspector-  
General’s* Manuscript, and the Rules of the  
“ *Custom-house* must vouch for them.

“ The *Mercator* will also observe, that I  
“ have had some regard to several of his Ob-  
“ jections, against the Valuation of divers  
“ Goods and Merchandize, in your Account  
“ of the Exports and Imports in 1685-6.

“ I shall therefore offer what has been said,  
“ as a fair and probable Argument to support  
“ the Authority of this old Scheme, being  
“ grounded upon the Authority of the *Cus-  
tom-house* Accounts, that have been produ-  
“ ced for no other end than to destroy it.

“ But the *Mercator’s* irresistible Weapons  
“ been always turned against him ; and tho’ I  
“ have some Reason to believe, that every Of-

“ face



“ fice in the Kingdom has been rumaged to  
 “ equip him, yet hitherto he has not produced  
 “ one Demonstration, nor published any Mat-  
 “ ter of Fact, which proves that the *French*  
 “ Trade was (not always, as he fays, but)  
 “ at any time beneficial to this Kingdom, un-  
 “ less during the last and the present Peace,  
 “ when it was carried on under the present  
 “ high Duties: and in this we all agree.

*French Trade never  
 beneficial to  
 us, but dur-  
 ing the last  
 and present  
 Peace, when  
 their Goods  
 were under  
 high Duties.*

“ He formerly indeed promised to exhibit a  
 “ true Scheme of this Trade; and having had  
 “ the *Custom-house* Accounts of our Exports  
 “ to and from *France* from *Michaelmas* 1686  
 “ to *Michaelmas* 1688 so long by him, I was  
 “ in hopes he would have tack’d them to the  
 “ Accounts of the preceding Year, and obli-  
 “ ged his Readers with an impartial Account  
 “ of those three Years Trade together.

“ But he being now out of humour with  
 “ all *Custom-house* Accounts, I must conclude  
 “ they are all as much against him, as the  
 “ *French* Commerce is against the Interest of  
 “ this Kingdom.

“ And therefore, if the way to judge of  
 “ what may be hereafter exported or imported,  
 “ is to examine what has been formerly ex-  
 “ ported or imported, as our said *Mercator*  
 “ has asserted; we may justly determine that  
 “ the *French*, if ever they have it in their  
 “ Power to supply us with their Products and  
 “ Manufactures, will at once ruin both our  
 “ home and foreign Trade.

S I R, Your Humble Servant,

K. K.

*The Arguments about our Exports to Marfeilles confuted. Persecution in England is the way to instruct foreign Nations in the Woollen Manufacture, who have all Materials for it.*

THE *Mercator* has kept himself for above a Month in the *Streights*: he seemed to me to have thought himself so very safe, and so well entrenched there, that I did not believe he would be drawn from thence by any Provocation.

I must confess now, that I was mistaken; he has left the *Streights* to defend Persecution, and to shew that how much soever we may persecute our Manufacturers out of *England*, yet if we can but keep our Wool at home, we are sure of keeping our Woollen Manufactures.

I shall not fail to consider his Defence of Persecution, as a *British Merchant*, so far as it is directly contrary to the Interest of Trade.

But for the present I must take up his Argument of the *Streights*, since he seems to have finished all he had to say upon that Subject.

The chief Subject of Dispute between the *Mercator* and myself has been the *French Trade*. I have asserted, that before our Prohibitions or high Duties on the Goods and Merchandizes of *France*, that Trade was always detrimental to this Nation. The *Mercator* on the contrary has asserted, that it was ALWAYS BENEFICIAL; and we have both appealed to the *Custom-house Accounts* in defence of our several Assertions. In

In defence of my Assertion I have produced the OLD SCHEME; I have cleared the Scheme from every Cavil and Objection of the *Mercator*; the *Mercator* has not made the least Reply: So that by the OLD SCHEME the *French Trade* stands condemned of paying a Ballance of 903,025 *l.* 15 *s.* 5 *d.* to that Nation. The OLD SCHEME is a *Custom-house Account*, and proves this.

I have likewise produced the entire Entries of both Exports and Imports between *England* and *France* in the Year 1685-6. The Balance against us in that Year is not very short of the former, especially if my Valuations of the Linens and some other Particulars were rectified; for having followed the *Custom-house Rates*, they were greatly undervalued.

The Merchants, who drew the Valuations of the OLD SCHEME, first set me to rights in this Matter, by their Representation in 1674 to the Lords of his Majesty's Privy-Council, then Commissioners for making a Treaty of Commerce with *France*.

Dr. *Davenant* has fully made it out, that we lost by the *French Trade*; and adds in his Discourse on the Protection and Care of Trade,

pag. 175. "'Tis likewise said, when the Book of Rates was complied, that the *French* knew how to place somewhere a great Sum very skilfully, by the help of which they procured, that the Customs and Duties upon their Product should be light, and heavy upon that of *Spain*, tho' apparently we got by one Country, and tho' we

*French Bribery to make our Duties on their Goods easy.*

“ were thought to lose by the other in the general Balance of Trade.”

Besides the two *Custom-house* Accounts, that of the OLD SCHEME, and that of the Year 1685-6, are two such Objections against the *French Trade*, and so plainly demonstrate that it was detrimental to this Nation, that the *Mercator* has been at great Pains to get rid of them.

*The Mercator's Arguments for the French Trade, from our Importations to Marseilles confuted.*

A world of Ways he has try'd to no purpose ; but his last Refuge is, that now his beloved *Custom-house* Accounts are to be given up, as not being able to give us a true Balance of the *French Trade*. They give us, says he, a full Account of our Importations from France, but they cannot give us a full Account of our Exportations to that Country.

This has been the Subject of 14 or 15 of his last Papers running, without stepping aside to any other Argument.

His whole Argument collected from the aforesaid Papers, is as follows :

“ That vast Quantities of our Goods are exported to France that are not enter'd to that Country.

“ That our Goods, and especially our Woollen Manufactures, are enter'd out for the *Streights*, and a very great Part of them are exported to *Marseilles*.

“ That this is apparent, First, “ Because some Goods are indeed enter'd for *Marseilles*, tho' no Ships are bound thither, but only for the *Streights* ; and the Quantities enter'd for *Marseilles* are so inconsiderable, that the Ships which carry

“ ry

“ ry them could not afford to go to *Marseilles*,  
“ if they were not also to deliver other Goods  
“ than those which are directly enter’d for  
“ that Port.

Secondly, “ Because *Marseilles* in *France*,  
“ as well as *Venice*, *Leghorn*, *Genoa*, *Naples*,  
“ and *Gallipoli* in *Italy*, *Alicant* and *Malaga*  
“ in *Spain*, and *Messina* in *Sicily*, are all in  
“ the *Streights*; and therefore of all our En-  
“ tries for the *Streights*, *Marseilles* ought to  
“ have its share, it ought to be allow’d that  
“ considerable Quantities are exported to that  
“ City.

Thirdly, “ Because the Goods exported to  
“ the other Cities are usually entered for those  
“ Cities, and not by the general Name of the  
“ *Streights*; whereas we very rarely see any  
“ Entries for *Marseilles*, and therefore it  
“ ought to be presumed that the Goods en-  
“ ter’d for the *Streights* are exported to *Mar-*  
“ *seilles*.

Fourthly, “ Because there can be no Reason  
“ to conceal our Exports to other Countries,  
“ as there is to *France*: The *Streights* there-  
“ fore is a general Name to conceal our Ex-  
“ ports to that Country.

From all which the *Mercator* concludes,

First, That great Quantities of our Goods  
entered out for the *Streights* are indeed ex-  
ported to *Marseilles*, and he lumps the Sum  
at one half of our whole Entries for the  
*Streights*.

Secondly, That the *Custom-house* Accounts  
are by no means to be depended on for giving  
us an exact Ballance of the *French* Trade,



since they do not take the least notice of any Goods that are enter'd out for the *Streights*; and yet such of them as are exported for *Marseilles* do as much help to make the Ballance of the *French Trade* on our side, as those which are directly enter'd out for *France*.

And the *Mercator* assures himself, that if all the Goods which were heretofore enter'd out for the *Streights*, *Flanders*, *Holland*, and *Germany*, and either directly or through those Countries carry'd into *France*, were separated and distinguished in the *Custom-house Books*; it wou'd quickly appear, that the Ballance of the *French Trade* was greatly on our side. But since the *Custom-house Books* cannot do this, he resolves that all our Schemes of Trade taken from thence are false and fallacious, and only calculated to deceive our Readers, and to exasperate the People against a Trade which *was always beneficial* to the Nation.

This is the Sum and Substance of those Papers; and I believe that he himself must acknowledge I have not wronged him in the Abridgment, or that I have not omitted any thing that was material to his Argument.

But now 'tis time to give an Answer to this Argument.

And, 1<sup>st</sup>, How cou'd this Man have the Confidence to affirm, that the *Custom-house Books* give us a full Account of all our Importations from *France*? Are no Goods then clandestinely imported? Are not the high Duties which are saved by it an Encouragement to the clandestine Importer? Are not innumerable Officers appointed at the vast Charge of the Govern-

Government to seize all such Goods? Are not Seizures made every Day? Shall it be said, that none of them escaped being seiz'd? And all that are thus imported, help to augment the Ballance of Trade against *England*? Yet the *Custom-house* Books give us no Account of these clandestine Importations: I never pretended that they did; I have often said the contrary. So that the *Custom-house* Books may indeed make out a Ballance against *England*, but they cannot make out the whole Ballance.

But, *Secondly*, I am to consider his Reasons why prodigious Quantities of our Goods are exported to *France*, which are not enter'd out for that Country.

The first of which is, that the few Entries for *Marseilles* demonstrate that our Ships which carry those Goods cou'd not afford to go up the Gulf of *Lions* so much out of their Way, if they were not also to deliver other Goods at *Marseilles*, besides those which are enter'd for that Port.

But I must inform the *Mercator*, since he knows nothing of the matter, that nothing is more common than for Ships bound for the *Streights*, in time of Peace, to set out with an inconsiderable Part of their Loading. They are contented for a small Freight to call in at any Place not very much out of their Way: And very often at the Places where they call, they take in Goods to the Places where they are afterwards bound, which at some Freight or other may help to fill their empty Holds. And Ships for this reason may even call at

*Marseilles*, tho' they have very few Goods to deliver there ; and therefore their going to *Marseilles* with a small Part of their Cargo enter'd out for that Port, is no Argument at all that they have any greater Quantity for that Place.

His second Reason is, That *Marseilles* being in the *Streights*, ought to have its Share of all the Goods that are enter'd out for the *Streights*.

To which I answer, That it is but one of a great many Ports in the *Streights*, and ought to have a very small Share upon this Account ; nor is it likely it can have so great a one as any of the rest. It is true, *Marseilles* is a free Port, and no Customs are paid there ; therefore it may receive as much as is consumed there without Payment of any Customs ; but excessive Customs are paid (if sent thence) for all other Parts of *France*, more than in any other Country in the *Streights* : so that it is not likely that any Goods are exported to *Marseilles* but for the Consumption of that Place, or some other, where the Customs are more easy than they are in *France* ; and whichsoever is the Case, our Exports for *Marseilles* are no Argument for the Bill of Commerce.

The *Mercator's* fourth Reason, That we do not export such Quantities of Goods to any other City in the *Streights* as we do to *Marseilles*, is, that we have no Necessity of concealing our Exports to other Places as we have to *France* ; and that therefore to most other Places we make our Entries to the very Places to which we export our Goods. Which is answered,

By

By saying, That we are under no greater necessity of concealing, now in a time of Peace, our Exports to *Marseilles* than to any other Port. Our Trade is as free and open there as to any Port in the *Mediterranean*. If therefore we seldom see any Entries for *Marseilles*, it is certain it is because we have less Trade there than to any other Port; and consequently of the Entries to the *Streights*, we ought to believe that *Marseilles* has the least Share, and more especially because tho' *Marseilles* is a free Port, and pays no Customs, yet our Goods cannot be carried farther into *France* without paying excessive Customs, and more than are paid in any other Country.

*Reasons why we can't export Goods to Marseilles to be sold in other parts of France.*

I have reserved the *Mercator's* third Reason to answer in the last Place, which was, That we enter to most other Ports in the *Streights* by their particular Names; and therefore a great Part of the Entries for the *Streights* must be supposed to be made for *Marseilles*, to which very few Entries are directly made.

To this I answer, The Entries for the Year 1699, from whence the Inspector-General has given the Valuation of all our Exports that Year, were

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
To the <i>Streights</i> ———	409316	7	2
To <i>Italy</i> ——— ———	100549	7	4
To <i>Venice</i> ——— ———	34034	10	7
	<hr/>		
In all	543900	5	1

And in 1703 there was exported,

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
To the <i>Streights</i>	—	—	304553	16	2
To <i>Italy</i>	—	—	173529	18	10
To <i>Venice</i>	—	—	15953	15	6
In all			494037	10	6

So that there was exported in  
1699 more than in 1703 — 49892 14 7

*Our Entries  
to the  
Streights  
but small in  
time of  
Peace.*

From this Account I must observe, that in 1699, whilst we enjoyed the late Peace with *Spain*, and as free a Trade to *Marseilles* as we can pretend to do at present, we exported into the *Streights* but 49862 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 *d.* more than in 1703, when, by reason of the War, we had lost our Trade to *France*, *Spain*, *Sicily* and *Naples*.

And consequently that no more than 49862 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 *d.* could be exported to *Marseilles*, *Alicant*, *Malaga*, *Barcelona*, *Messina*, *Naples*, &c. all of them at War with us, and to which our Trade was prohibited.

And if this was the Case, how small a Part of that Sum must be said to have been exported to *Marseilles*, when a much greater might reasonably be believed to have been exported to every one of those Places, with which we were at War as well as *France*?

By this Account 49862 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 *d.* is the whole Value of the Goods entered for the *Streights*, which can be supposed to have been sent to *Marseilles*, *Alicant*, *Malaga*, *Barcelona*, *Messina*, *Naples*, &c. And how small a Part of this Sum can be assigned to *Marseilles*,  
and



and consequently to *France* alone? For my own part, I believe very little, and I believe every Reader will be of my mind; especially since 'tis well known to our Merchants, that we made very few Entries directly for the aforesaid *Spanish* and *Italian* Ports, tho' they all knew our Trade was not inconsiderable to those Places, which therefore must be supposed to have been made under the general Name of the *Streights*.

It is manifest now that all our Entries to the *Streights*, *Italy* and *Venice*, in the best of the abovementioned Years, did not exceed 543900 *l.* 5 *s.* 1 *d.* when our Peace was universal.

And that they amounted within 49862 *l.* 14 *s.* 7 *d.* of that Sum, even when by the War our Trade to *Marseilles*, *Alicant*, *Barcelona*, *Messina*, *Naples*, &c. was cut off from us; so that there is no Pretence for assigning to *Marseilles* any considerable Quantities of our Exports to the *Streights*, and perhaps almost nothing.

Will the *Mercator* then conclude, that one half of our Goods entred out for the *Streights* were exported for *Marseilles*? Or is there any more Reason to believe that our Goods which are entered for *Holland*, *Germany* and *Flanders*, are exported to *France*, than that those which are entered to *France* are exported to those Places? tho' it must be confessed the Merchants commonly make wrong Entries to conceal their Trade from one another.

I have proved too before, that he must be a ridiculous Trader that will export to *France* thro'

thro' other Countries, considering the Customs, and other large Charges that must be paid by the way.

And then can the *Mercator* hope by his Entries to the *Streights*, of which very little goes to *France*, or by his wrong Entry to other Countries, or his Exportations thro' other Countries, to fetch up such a Ballance as 900000 *l.* which by the SCHEME, and other *Custom-house* Accounts, we paid to *France*, or indeed any considerable part of that Sum; much less that the Ballance of the *French* Trade can thereby be made to be on our side?

It remains therefore, that the *Custom-house* Accounts are not false nor fallacious, and that they are sufficient to prove that we lose at least the Ballance appearing by them.

And it is certain we lose a great deal more, if the clandestine Importations shall be added.

The *Mercator*, Number 150. said, that all our Entries for *Marseilles* in the space of seven Months were no more than six small Parcels, viz. in the whole 42 C. of Leather and 40 C. of Tin.

From whence he argues, " That it was not  
 " worth the while of our Ships to go to *Mar-*  
 " *seilles* with such inconsiderable Parcels, and  
 " therefore it ought to be presumed they were  
 " to deliver there a very great Part of their  
 " Cargoes, though entered out for the *Streights*  
 " and other Places; and consequently that  
 " vast Quantities of our Woollen Manufac-  
 " tures, as well as other Goods, were deliver-

— ed

“ ed and sold at *Marseilles*, and from thence  
“ distributed and sold to other Parts of *France*.”

By this fine Argument he thinks he has very safely lodged our Goods at *Marseilles*, and, with a kind of Triumph, he bids his Adversaries get them thence if they are able. Tho’ *Marseilles* is a free Port where no Customs at all are paid, yet he thinks she can spend but a very small Part of the Goods we deliver there; they must either be consumed in other Parts of *France* where they pay excessive Customs, or re-exported to other Countries. And if the *French* can afford to consume our Goods with the present Burden of Customs, he thinks it a Demonstration that they have few or no Woollen Manufactures; but if they are obliged to re-export our Woollen Manufactures, then he is very sure they have none of their own which can contend or vye with ours in any foreign Markets.

I have shewn already that our Ships in time of Peace set out for the *Streights* with a very small Part of their Loading, (every Merchant upon the *Exchange* will tell the *Mercator* this) and therefore for very inconsiderable Freight they will touch at several Ports to mend their Freight, by taking in Goods from one Port to another; and consequently the few Entries for *Marseilles* are no Argument at all that any more Goods are delivered there than entered for that Place.

I have shewn too in the second Place, that of all the Goods entered for the *Streights*, so great a Part was always carried to the Ports  
of

of *Spain*, *Italy*, and *Sicily*, that the Share left for *Marseilles* could amount to but a Trifle.

To which, thirdly, may be added, That the Customs on our Goods are easier in every other Country of the *Streights* than they are in *France*; and therefore it is but a natural Presumption, that few or none of our Entries for the *Streights* are intended for *Marseilles*.

But fourthly, How can the *Mercator* tell his Readers, that he has lodged vast Quantities of our Woollen Manufactures, and other Goods and Merchandizes at *Marseilles*, when his whole Entries for that Port are such a Trifle? and amongst them not a Yard, not an Ounce of Woollen Manufactures! *Marseilles* is a free Port, and yet receives none of our Woollen Manufactures! 'Tis wonderful likely then that vast Quantities of them are consumed in *France* under the present intolerable Burden of high Duties! We are wonderful likely to contend with their Woollen Manufactures in other Parts of *France* under the present high Duties, or those grievous ones of the late Treaty, when we are not now, even now, able to contend with them at *Marseilles*, which is a free Port, and where we cannot be made more easy by our late Treaty than we are already!

But lastly, If the *Mercator* were able to produce any Proof, or the least Presumption, that any of our Woollen Manufactures are landed at *Marseilles*, (which he is not able to do) I must insist on it that they are only landed there in order to be re-exported to other Countries, where they are as much, and perhaps more, favoured than those of *France*.

A Gentleman, who very well understands the Trade of *Marseilles*, gave me the following Account of this Matter.

*An Account  
of the Trade  
of Marseil-  
les.*

“ The *Mercator*, says he, pretends in very many of his Papers, that all the Merchandizes that go from *London* to *Marseilles* are to be sold in *France*, which is false.

“ For there is a Transit from *Marseilles* to *Geneva* belonging to the Messieurs *Fatio* and Company of the said Place; and they are permitted to pass them thro’ *France* up the *Rhone* near *Geneva*, by giving Security to do this, and without paying any Customs.

“ Thus all heavy Merchandizes that are loaded here for *Geneva*, *Switzerland*, *Alsace*, *Swabia*, &c. go this way, such as Tin, Lead, Pepper, Sugar, &c. and ’tis cheaper much in respect of Freight, than to send them by the way of *Holland* or *Hamburgh* in a time of Peace, when the Freight and Assurances are very cheap; and I believe that nine Tenths of the Merchandizes that go to *Marseilles* make no Stay at all in *France*, nor are sold there, but are pass’d from thence by the aforesaid Transit.”

What an inconsiderable Quantity of Goods has the *Mercator* himself shown us to have been entred for *Marseilles*? and among them not one single Parcel of Woollen Manufactures? But if ten times as great a Value had been delivered there, and all of Woollen Manufactures, yet, according to this Gentleman, nine Tenth Parts are re-exported; so that ’tis but a Trifle that is consumed in *France*, and without doubt nothing that is not absolutely necessary



necessary for that People: and in every such Case it is the Policy of that Prince to dispense with his own Prohibitions.

It is the Custom of *France* to dispense with her Prohibitions for the Good of the People. *East-India* Manufactures, and many other Goods, are under Prohibitions, which are not provided against by the late Treaty; and yet we see that some Parcels of such Goods are sent every Day to *France*. The Execution of his Prohibiting Edicts seems to be conniv'd at or suspended for a time, as a Shooing-Horn to the Bill of Commerce, and to gain an easy Admission here of his Wines, his Linens, his Paper, his wrought Silks, to the utter Ruin of very many of our Manufactures. Perhaps not only our *East-India*, but some small Parcels of our Woollen Manufactures may be able to get into *France* under such Dispensations, without paying any Customs, and for the very same Reason. But when his Point is once gained, and the Treaty is made effectual, *France* will have no Ballance to pay to *England*; she will be very strict in the Execution of all her Edicts that are not repealed by the late Treaty; we shall not send so many of our Goods thither as we do now, while infinite Sums shall go every Day out of *England* to pay the Manufacturers of that Kingdom, which are now paid to our own Poor, and keep them from coming upon the Parish.

But let what will happen, the *Mercator* assures us, "That our Woollen Manufactures  
" must be still safe; tho' a Persecution should  
" happen to break in upon us, and drive a-

" way

“ way our People, drive away the very Artists that are employed in our Woollen Manufacture, yet they cannot set it up in any other Country. All other Countries want the necessary Material; they want the Wool, and let us but effectually secure and keep our Wool at home, all other Nations must buy from us, our Artists may be forc’d away: but if they cannot carry our Wool along with them, we are in no danger of losing our Woollen Manufactures.” This is the Doctrine of the last *Mercator*, Number 162.

No Wool in any other Country! I must confess I thought I never should have heard more of this Subject, after I had so often appealed to the Gentlemen, both within and without Doors, who have travelled into other Countries, that they eat Mutton abroad as much and as good as they do in *England*, and that their Sheep there wear Fleeces, and not Dog’s Hair; after I had appealed so often to the Testimony of our Woollen Manufacturers, who every Day give a much greater Price for *Spanish* Wool than the very best that grows in *England*; after I had appealed more than once to the Testimony of the famous *Mons. De Wit*, for the vast Value of Woollen Yarn that was annually spun in *Picardy*, a single Province of *France*, and sold to the *Hollanders*; after I had shewn the Commencement, Progress and Success of the Woollen Manufacture in *Portugal* with her own Wool, before it was knock’d on the Head by Mr. *Methuen*’s Treaty with that Kingdom; after I had produced so many

*French*

*Wool in other Countries than ours, particularly in France and Portugal.*

*French* Edicts against the Exportation of Wool, and for Encouragement of the Woollen Manufacture; after I had produced the Testimony of the famous Mr. *Mun*, printed and licensed by a Secretary of State in the Reign of King *Charles II.* THAT OTHER NATIONS NEITHER WANT ART NOR MATERIALS FOR THIS PERFORMANCE: After all these Evidences, and without the least Answer given to any one of them, to be still pester'd with the Want of Wool in other Countries, shews THE MIRACULOUS CONFIDENCE OF THE *MERCATOR*.

Woollen  
Manufacture in *Strabo's* time in  
Portugal  
and in *Asia*.

Certainly, the Woollen Manufacture is not so new a thing, nor so confin'd to *England*. I do not know any Evidence of the *English* Woollen Manufacture in the Days of *Tiberius Cæsar*; yet *Strabo*, who lived at that time, when he speaks of *Turtedania* (which at most is but a Part of *Portugal*) and her Traffick, says, That *frequens inde primum vestis veniebat, nunc vero Coraxorum amplius Lanificium excellentissimæ pulchritudinis, unde admissarii arietas talento emantur*. Cloths, says he, were heretofore the Exports of that Country, but now a more noble Woollen Manufacture of most excellent Beauty, such as that of the *Coraxi*, whence Rams are bought for Breed at the Price of a Talent. A Talent, above an 100*l.* of our Money; the Price of a single Ram to propagate this fine Woollen Manufacture! surely this was very fine. The *Coraxi* were a People in *Asia*; and was their Woollen Manufacture so very fine, that *Strabo* could not better commend that of *Portugal*, than by comparing

comparing it with that of the *Coraxi*? And yet the *Mercator* will tell us that there is no Wool-  
len Manufacture but in *England*.

This Man has engaged me whether I will or no to read Books and Papers, that give me no other Pleasure but that of confuting him.

It was very lately that I was forc'd by him to look into a *Spanish* Book of Customs paid in *Castile* on foreign Goods; there I found that the Customs were the very same on the Bays of *Barcelona*, as those that are made in *England*. How! *Barcelona* able to sell her Bays in *Spain* under as heavy a Load of Duties as those that are made in *England*; yet, no doubt, the *Mercator* will say, that Bays cannot be made in any Part of the World, except in *Colchester*.

*Bays made  
at Barcelo-  
na.*

I have this very Moment a *Marseilles Price* *Several*  
*Courant* for the 7th of *November* in my Hand, and there I see the Wool of *Castile*, *Arragon*, *Albarasin*, *Barbary* and *Constantinople*, all of *sorts of*  
different Prices, and the very lowest above the *Price of*  
Price of *English* Wool, but no *English* Wool at all in that *Price Courant*; yet, no doubt, this Man will tell us, that *English* Wool is the best and dearest in the World, tho' every *English* Woollen Manufacturer will tell him the quite contrary.

*Wool at  
Marseilles.*

The *Mercator* will tell us, as he does in his Paper, that our *English* Sheep and Wool degenerate when they are transported into other Countries, as he does that our *English* Horses lose their Mettle, tho' every Jockey in *Newmarket* can tell him what Prices are given in *England* for an *Arab* or a *Turk*; how much  
more

more then was given for an *English* Stallion? but, it seems Sheep, and Horses, and Cocks, and Bull-Dogs, are all peculiar to the Soil of *England*.

Dr. *Davenant*, the *Inspector-General*, in his Treatise, that foreign Trade is beneficial to *England*, fol. 66. was of another Opinion as to Wool. *The Exportation*, says he, of our own Product is indeed the Foundation of all our Trade, but 'tis subject to many Accidents; other Countries may set up the Manufactures which we excel in AT PRESENT; and tho' not by the Goodness, yet by a low Price, beat us down in the Markets abroad. The *Mercator* now, if he pleases, may number the *Inspector-General* among those that are for disparaging the Manufactures of their native Country.

*The Mercator's Assertion, that Persecution will not hurt our Woollen Manufactures, ridiculous.*

This Man would persuade us, that our Wool is sufficient to preserve to us the Woollen Manufacture, tho' a Persecution should drive the Manufacturers out of *England*; so that it seems they are of no use, our Wool must comb, and card, and spin, and weave, and full, and dress itself. Hands are of no use in this matter.

Yet the *Mercator*, innocent Man, does not say this to promote a Persecution, God forbid! then why did he say it at this time? He knows very well, that the Spirit of a persecuting Party is at this time so much inflam'd, that the Justice of the thing is not half so prevalent to lay this Spirit as the Interest of Persons; and that it is the Interest of all Persons, the Landed as well as Manufacturing Persons, to preserve our Woollen Manufacture, to keep it to *England*, and not to shew it to other Nations. Why then

are



are we told, especially at this time, that the forcing away our Manufacturing People, is not forcing away our Manufacture?

Since it is not in any Man's power to believe as he pleases, every Man must be suffered to enjoy the Religion which he believes to be the best.

Every Man is obliged in Conscience to educate his Children in the Way which he thinks the safest for himself, and therefore ought to chuse for them such Masters or Teachers as he thinks best qualify'd to educate them in his own Religion.

To force any Man by Penalties to embrace a Religion which he does not think the best, to force his Children from him, or to deprive him of the Means of educating them in his own Religion, or to disable the Teachers whom the Father has chosen for them, is Persecution.

It is natural for Men that are persecuted in one Country, to fly into another where they can be free.

Such as dissent from the establish'd Church, are, as I said before, generally speaking, Mechanicks and Manufacturers.

And as their Arts and Manufactures are their Subsistence, it must be expected they will carry them along with them.

And I have also said enough to show, that the Materials for the Woollen Manufacture are in other Countries, that they want nothing but Artists, and that a Persecution in *England* is the ready way to supply their only Want.

Every landed Person in *England* thinks it his Interest to preserve our Woollen Manufacture,  
and

*The British Merchant.*

and to keep the Knowledge of it as much as possible from other Nations.

For this Reason I had urg'd, that Persecution must naturally drive away our People, and instruct foreign Nations in our Manufactures, because I believed many Gentlemen would more easily be convinced by Arguments of Interest than of Justice.

The *Mercator* did not seem to be offended; a few Days ago he wished me God speed with my Argument; he was mightily against Persecution.

And now all on a sudden, when so many Men are in haste for it, he still declares against Persecution, but says it cannot possibly hurt our Woollen Manufacture; that is, he tells them they should not persecute, but that it would not hurt them if they should. Gentlemen are likely to be convinced by such Arguments.

*A Letter from a Clothier, wherein the Fall of the Price of Wool and Woollen Goods is considered.*

*To the British Merchant.*

S I R,

“ **T**HE *Mercator* has frequently said,  
 “ That the Fall in Price of our *Wool*  
 “ and *Woollen Goods* is owing to the rejecting  
 “ the Bill of Commerce; the direct contrary  
 “ of which is true, viz. That it is owing to  
 “ the rejecting of that Bill, that they are so  
 “ high as they are at present; and had that  
 “ Bill

“ Bill passed into a Law, they must inevitably long before this time have been much lower. Such a Law must have lessened our Exportation of our Woollen Manufacture to *Portugal, Italy, Germany, &c.* in proportion to our Demand from them. Our Demand from those Countries must have decreased by our Importations of Goods from *France*; our Importations from *France* must have increased by our reducing the Duties on them to an Equality with those of the Nations the most favoured: So that with the Demand of our Woollen Manufactures in those Nations, the Price both of our Woollen Manufactures must have decreased, unless our Treaty were the Way to open to us as good a Market from them in *France*, as it must necessarily have taken from us in other Countries.

“ This we had no Reason to promise ourselves by the aforementioned Treaty, seeing that upon the Foot of the Tariff of 1699 for such of the Woollen Manufactures as are expressly tyed down by the Treaty to pay by the Tariff, and for such other Woollen Goods, as the *Mercator* and his Friends pretend are to pay by the Tariff of 1664, the Duties are so extravagant (whereof you have given a particular Account) that it is beyond Contradiction we could have gained no new Market in *France* to compensate for the old one we should have lost in other Countries; the Consequence whereof must be, that the Demand for Exportation being

“ thereby

*Impositions  
on our Peo-  
ple at the  
Cessation of  
Arms.*

“ thereby lessened, the Price must necessarily  
 “ sink in proportion.  
 “ I will allow, that upon the Cessation of  
 “ Arms between us and *France*, and on the  
 “ positive Assertions that were then made,  
 “ how advantageous the Treaty of Com-  
 “ merce to be settled between the two King-  
 “ doms would be to our Trade; a mighty  
 “ Expectation was raised here, that we should  
 “ have the most flourishing Trade imagi-  
 “ nable, and with very good Reason: for  
 “ who could expect, that any thing very ad-  
 “ vantageous for the Commerce of *France*  
 “ should be insisted on by a conquered E-  
 “ nemy, whose Interest it was to *court* Us?  
 “ or on the other hand, that any thing highly  
 “ prejudicial to our Trade should be yielded in  
 “ a Treaty with *France*, when we could have  
 “ imposed on her what Terms we had pleased?  
 “ Therefore the *Mercator* may be in the right  
 “ in saying, That the Price of our Goods  
 “ was raised, when the News was spread a-  
 “ bout the Kingdom that the *French* Trade  
 “ would be opened; and yet his Conclusion  
 “ from thence (*viz.* That the Fall thereof  
 “ was occasioned by rejecting the eighth and  
 “ ninth Articles) very false: for every one  
 “ must remember, that before the Treaty of  
 “ Commerce was printed, it was INDUS-  
 “ TRIOUSLY spread thro’ the Nation how  
 “ great Advantages were obtained for the  
 “ Trade of *England*, and particularly that  
 “ Care had been taken that *all* the *Prohibiti-*  
 “ *ons* and *high Duties* laid on the Woollen Ma-  
 “ nufactures in *France* should be taken off; and  
 “ this

“ this with such Assurance, and from Persons  
 “ who, ’twas thought, might be depended  
 “ upon, that the People generally believed it,  
 “ and were not only induced publicly to ex-  
 “ press their Satisfaction with what they knew  
 “ nothing of, but did really think that what  
 “ Woollen Manufactures they had by them  
 “ would soon find a very great Vent, and  
 “ thereupon immediately heighten the Prices  
 “ thereof, as also that of Wool, as well in  
 “ expectation of finding what they were told  
 “ of the *French Trade* true, as upon the Be-  
 “ lief they had that the Treaty of Commerce  
 “ with *Spain* would soon be signed ; in which  
 “ ’twas hoped they had Reason to believe,  
 “ from the Necessity that Monarch seemed to  
 “ be in of our Assistance, that no Article  
 “ could possibly be proposed to him in favour  
 “ of our Commerce but what would meet  
 “ with his ready Compliance, and that there-  
 “ fore our Trade must at least be as beneficial  
 “ with that Kingdom as it had formerly been,  
 “ notwithstanding that Monarchy was now in  
 “ the Hands of a PRINCE of the HOUSE  
 “ of *BOURBON*.

“ But no sooner was the Treaty of Com-  
 “ merce with *France* made publick, and tho-  
 “ roughly considered, but they quickly found  
 “ their Mistake with relation to that Trade:  
 “ for in that Treaty, they plainly found that  
 “ the Duties on some Woollen Goods were  
 “ settled according to the excessive Rates im-  
 “ posed by the Tariff of 1699 ; and that the  
 “ Articles and Specifications were so ambigu-  
 “ cously worded, as to put it very much in  
 “ doubt

*Who were  
 undeceiv'd  
 as soon as  
 the Treaty  
 of Commerce  
 appear'd in  
 Print.*



More so by  
our Trade  
with Spain.

Visitations,  
the Nature  
and Reason  
of them.

“ doubt whether the rest were to be admitted  
“ at all, or after what manner they were to  
“ pay.

“ They also found to their Cost in a little  
“ time, by some Goods sent to *Cadiz*, that  
“ the Expectation they had conceived of a  
“ vast Trade to *Spain*, was groundless; that  
“ the Fashions in that Country were extremely  
“ altered, since that Monarchy had been un-  
“ der the Influence of *French* Councils; that  
“ the little Demand for our Goods in *Spain*  
“ proceeded from the Alterations in their Ap-  
“ parel to the *French* Modes and Manufac-  
“ tures; and the Treaty of Commerce with  
“ that Crown, since published; has shewn us  
“ we are in no wise to depend on any consi-  
“ derable Trade thither.

“ When therefore, upon a due Examina-  
“ tion of the Treaty of Commerce with  
“ *France*, it was found impracticable, upon  
“ the Foot of that Treaty's being rendered  
“ effectual, to send any great Quantities of  
“ Woollen Goods thither, by reason of the  
“ excessive high Duties that would still remain  
“ to be paid by the Tariffs of 1664 and 1669;  
“ as also by their being expressly subjected by  
“ the second Specification to VISITATIONS  
“ in *France*, whereby they might be confis-  
“ cated upon the slightest Pretences in the  
“ world, if they were found either in Length,  
“ Breadth, Weight, Fineness, or any other  
“ way different from the like sorts made  
“ there: For those Rules of *Visitations* could  
“ be insisted on by *France* for no other Intent  
“ but to have a Handle to plague us, and to  
“ prevent our Importations. “ So

“ So that upon these Considerations, it was  
 “ not possible but that the Price of Wool, and  
 “ of the Manufactures made thereof, must a-  
 “ gain fall as fast as it rose; and that what was  
 “ raised purely upon the *Force of Expectation*,  
 “ and without any solid Ground, must sink  
 “ again when that ill-grounded Rise came to  
 “ be perceived.

“ But the Case was far otherwise after the  
 “ Peace of *Reswick*; for tho’ we sent but  
 “ few Woollen Goods to *France* during that  
 “ Peace, as Dr. *Davenant* informs us, yet an  
 “ AUSTRIAN PRINCE being then upon  
 “ the Throne of *Spain*, who was more desi-  
 “ rous of encouraging *our* Trade than that of  
 “ *France*; and the Demand for our Woollen  
 “ Goods was then so great in *Spain*, the War,  
 “ which had raised Freights and Premiums of  
 “ Insurance to a most extravagant Height, be-  
 “ ing ended, what was saved on those two  
 “ Accounts came to be added to the Price of  
 “ the Manufactures, which gradually advanced  
 “ by that continued Demand, whereof I will  
 “ give an Instance in the Article of *Colchester*  
 “ Bays, which, at the time of the making of  
 “ the *Reswick* Peace, were at about 17 *d.* per  
 “ Ell, but rose to about 23 *d.* and 23 *d.*  $\frac{1}{2}$  per  
 “ Ell, and continued about that Price till a stop  
 “ was put to our Trade thither.

A French  
 Prince not  
 so like to  
 encourage  
 our Trade to  
 Spain as an  
 Austrian  
 Prince.

Colchester  
 Bays rose  
 in Spain af-  
 ter the  
 Treaty of  
 Reswick.

“ Another Reason that may be assigned  
 “ for the sudden Fall of the Woollen Manu-  
 “ factures, from the Prices to which the Ma-  
 “ nufacturers and Dealers therein had raised  
 “ them upon the Prospect of the *Utrecht*  
 “ Peace, is, That most of our Merchants ne-

“ ver knew what the Duties that were to be  
 “ paid in *France* by the Tariff said to be gran-  
 “ ted us, and which they were told was so  
 “ advantageous for our Woollen Manufac-  
 “ tures, would amount to : but when they  
 “ found what Duties would be payable, sup-  
 “ posing the Treaty took effect, and that they  
 “ were tantamount to a Prohibition ; and  
 “ that, unless they would run the hazard of  
 “ getting them clandestinely imported into  
 “ *France*, their Correspondents could give  
 “ them no manner of Encouragement to send  
 “ any thither, they then plainly saw that it  
 “ was impossible to answer the Expectation of  
 “ the Manufacturers here.

Our Trade  
 in Spain  
 lessened by  
 high Duties  
 on them, and  
 the Spaniards  
 following  
 the French  
 Modes.

“ This being the Case of our Woollen Ma-  
 “ nufactures in respect to *France*, it were to be  
 “ wished that our Treaty of Commerce with  
 “ *Spain* would befriend them more than that  
 “ with *France* ; but you have shewn that no  
 “ good can be expected from it as it is, but that  
 “ we are saddled with much higher Duties  
 “ than ever we paid before in that Country.  
 “ But besides, the *Mode* in *Spain* is so much  
 “ altered, and the Fashion of wearing *Bays*,  
 “ and other *English* Woollen Goods, so very  
 “ much changed into that of *French* Druggets  
 “ and fine Stuffs ; and those that will not alter  
 “ their Manner, being furnished by the way  
 “ of *Alicant*, and other Ports of *Spain* in the  
 “ *Mediterranean*, with *Bays* and *Perpetua-*  
 “ *nas*, &c. from *Castres*, and other Places  
 “ in the *Province of Languedoc*, which is ve-  
 “ ry near them ; and since there are such o-  
 “ ther Discouragements to our Woollen Ma-  
 “ nufactures

“ manufactures both in *France* and *Spain*, it  
“ plainly appears that it is wholly owing to the  
“ Trade we have PRESERVED with other  
“ Nations, that our Woollen Goods are not  
“ reduced a great deal lower than they are ;  
“ and that nothing but keeping the Trade to and  
“ from *France* upon the present Foot of high  
“ Duties, the preventing the clandestine Trans-  
“ portation of our Wool, and the obtaining an  
“ Alteration of several Things in our Treaty of  
“ Commerce with *Spain*, can prevent the total  
“ Ruin of the Woollen Manufactures in this  
“ Kingdom.

*A plain Demonstration that the Woollen Man-  
ufacture is of the greatest Importance to  
Great Britain ; that tho' we have the most  
useful Wool, other Nations have their Ma-  
nufactures : That the French push hard to  
secure this Manufacture, by their Conduct  
at home and by the Wool they import from o-  
ther Countries : That France is become our  
greatest Rival, and that the Goodness of our  
Manufactures cannot prevent the Sale of the  
French.*

*The unhappy Consequences of the Increase of the  
French Trade, and of the Fears of the re-  
viving the Bill of Commerce.*

*Our new Projects have encouraged the French  
Designs ; and the best Method to stint their  
Woollen Manufacture, is to encourage our  
own Exportation, and to prevent the Running  
of our Wool. With a further Defence of*

*the old Scheme from the Report of the Lords Commissioners of Trade in 1697.*

**T**O preserve and encourage the Consumption of our Woollen Manufactures both at home and abroad, is the common Concern of every Man that delights in the Welfare and Prosperity of his Country.

These have been the Foundation of our foreign Commerce, and the chief procuring Cause of our Riches.

It is therefore of the greatest Consequence to this Kingdom firmly to support the profitable Trade that is carried on by the Exportation thereof, and to be very jealous of those Nations whose Thoughts are bent upon supplanting us of this mighty Benefit.

'Tis true indeed, Providence has furnished us with better and more useful Wool than most of our Neighbours, and our Industry has brought our Manufactures to the greatest Perfection.

But can these be said to be secured to us, whilst (as I have formerly mentioned) we know that *other Nations neither want Art nor Materials for this Performance?*

Is it not certain that the *Venetians* have still a noble Manufacture of Cloth, with which *Italy* and *Turkey* were formerly supply'd in abundance?

*Woollen  
Manufacture at Sa-  
lonica its  
Consequence.*

Did not the *Jews* and *Greeks* at *Salonica*, and in the Country thereabouts, 70 Years past, set up a Manufacture of *coarse Woollen Cloth*, which entirely beat out our *Kersyes* then vended in great Quantities in *Turkey*, and which



which has ever since proved *prejudicial* to the Consumption of *our ordinary Cloth* in that Empire?

Nay, have not the *Turks* of late Years, upon the Encouragement of two Viziers, twice attempted this Manufacture? And tho' under their Conduct Manufactures can never flourish, yet they made several Cloths, which were esteemed of equal Value with ours, from 6 to 8 *l. per Cloth white*.

In 1665 was it not notorious that *Thomas Tilham* of *Warwickshire* prevailed with upwards of 2000 Men in this Kingdom to settle in the *Palatinate*, where they establish'd a Woollen Manufacture, which was greatly encouraged by that Elector? And after they were fixed, was not that Colony joined by *Skep* of *Herefordshire*, and many others?

And in *Silesia* and *Poland* have they not their Woollen Manufacture? and did they not attempt but two or three Years past to supply the Czar with Woollen Cloth for the Use of his Army?

Besides, how often have the *Dutch* entertained our Manufacturers who fled thither; and to encourage them, and others to follow their Example settled them at *Leyden* and other Places Rent-free and Excise-free for several Years?

By these and many other Instances already produced, 'tis evident that there is scarce any Country in *Europe* without a Woollen Manufacture.

But never did any Nation PUSH SO VERY FURIOUSLY to extend their Traffick

*The French have pushed on their Manufactures furiously since the Peace.*

in these *Manufactures*, as *France* has done since the Conclusion of the present Peace.

The *Mercator* will and may flurt at this Assertion as often as he pleases ; but I am well assured none that are acquainted with their Trade can deny the Facts.

However, since he has only crude Notions of the *French* Trade, and possibly is not acquainted with the Methods they take to supply themselves with WOOL from several other Countries besides *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, I will endeavour to set him to rights in the following Particulars.

*How France is supply'd with Wool.*

And in the first Place I will tell him, That *France* has abundance of Wool of its own Growth, which always served for many ordinary Manufactures.

That of late Yers, by the Encouragement they have given to foreign Manufactures, they have learned to make the most of this and all their Wool.

And that the *French* King, some Years past, caused great Part of his Kingdom to be survey'd, and those waste Grounds which were found proper for the Improvement of Wool, were turned into Sheep-Walks, whereby they now reap no small Advantage.

To these I shall add the great Supplies they import from many Foreign Parts.

From *Turkey* they bring vast Quantities of the middling and ordinary Sorts of Wool ; and having lately engrossed all they could procure in those Parts, they have this Year advanced the Price thereof 150 per Cent.

From the Gulph of *Volz*, and the Country there-

thereabouts in *Greece*, they constantly import several sorts of Wool equal to ours from 7 to 9 *l. per Pack*.

They have also large Parcels of the inferior sorts from divers Places in *Barbary*.

The *Portugal* Wool is now shared between them and the *Dutch*, the best whereof will make Cloth of 6 and 7 *s. per Yard*.

And from *Bilboa* it's advised, under the 27th of *April* last, that in eight Months before that time, the *French* had sent out of *Spain* into *France* 24000 Bags of Wool of all sorts; and besides, they had contracted for most of the best Piles of the new-shorn Wool.

In this manner *France* is become a Staple for Wool, and the Woollen Manufacturers working for one half or two thirds of the Wages which we pay to ours, they are thereby enabled to sell their Manufactures exceeding cheap, and in great Quantities, at all the foreign Markets, to which we both trade; and therefore I shall conclude, that she is become the greatest Rival we ever yet contended with in the Woollen Manufacture, and that the utmost Care and greatest Application is absolutely necessary to support this National Manufacture.

But that my Readers may the better judge of the Importance thereof, I shall add,

That we are told by several ingenious Authors, the Value of the Wool shorn in *England*, amounts annually to ————

2,000,000 0 0

The Manufacture whereof is computed at ————

6,000,000 0 0

Total 8,000,000 0 0

Q 5

And

The annual  
Value of our  
Wool and  
Woollen  
Manufactures.

And that in 1699, as was observed before, our exported Woollen Manufactures amounted to 2,932,292 *l.* 17 *s.* 6 *d.*

These are all Arguments which prove the necessity we are under of securing this invaluable Treasure, and of removing every Clog that restrains our Exportation, or the Consumption of those foreign Commodities which we import in return for our Woollen Goods.

If the *French* can work up the Wool they are now possess'd of, which they certainly can and will do, the Merchants who trade in our Woollen Goods to *Holland, Portugal, Spain, Italy, and Turkey*, must undoubtedly soon feel the continued ill Effects of their interfering with us in those foreign Markets.

And it will be in vain to flatter ourselves, that the Goodness of our Manufactures will prevent the Sale of theirs: This was fully answered by one of my Correspondents already, but for a further Confutation of this idle Conceit, I shall produce the Opinion of Sir *Josiah Child* in his Discourse of Trade, *fol.* 148.

“ All our Laws that oblige our People to the  
 “ making of strong, substantial, (and, as we call  
 “ it, loyal) Cloth, if they were duly put in ex-  
 “ ecution, would do more hurt than good, be-  
 “ cause the Humours and Fashions of the World  
 “ change; and at some Times and some Places,  
 “ (as now in most) slight, cheap, light Cloth  
 “ will sell more plentifully and better, than  
 “ that which is heavier, stronger, and truer  
 “ wrought: And if we intend to have the  
 “ Trade of the World, we must imitate the  
 “ *Dutch*, who make the worst as well as the  
 “ best

“ best of all Manufactures, that we may be  
“ in a Capacity of serving all Markets and all  
“ Humours.” Which is likewise too often  
confirmed by the Experience of all Traders.

But the unhappy Consequences already occasioned by the Increase of the *French Trade*, are manifestly proved beyond all Contradiction ;

*The ill  
Consequences  
of the Increase of the  
French  
Trade to us.*

*First*, By the Fall of our Manufactures in all foreign Parts : and,

*Secondly*, By the Complaints of our honest and useful Clothiers, That their Woollen Cloths (made of *English Wool*) from 7 to 9 *l.* per Cloth and upwards, lie now hardly vendible.

These are undoubted Evidences that our Trade is cramp'd both abroad and at home, by the *French* Woollen Manufactures, which some are ignorant of, and others ridicule.

And the Influences, which have been occasioned by the Apprehension of the Revival of the Bill of Commerce, are equally fatal.

Since our *Weavers*, who lately boasted that they had made to the Value of 300,000 *l.* annually in black Silks, are very justly lamenting, that that Manufacture is sunk in twelve Months past to less than half of that Sum.

How is it then possible, that those who have a just Regard for Trade can be unconcerned, whilst it thus languished, and whilst we are thus rivalled, that our Eyes are not to be opened, until we feel what it is to want the Blessing we have so long enjoyed ?

For many Years past, our foreign Commerce has been so happily extended, that upon the late



late Peace, nothing was more to be dreaded than to divert its prosperous Course from those Channels thro' which it passed, nor nothing more to be wish'd for than to preserve and secure the Trades we enjoyed before the War: but for the future we must be content to chew upon the *Mercator's* Title, and study how to *retrieve* a decaying *Commerce*.

*The Increase  
of our Wool-  
len Exports  
from 1669  
to 1699.*

As long as we steadily pursued our Traffick to *Germany*, and other Parts, for Linens and Raw Linen Yarn, and to *Italy* and *Turkey* for Raw and Thrown Silk we enjoyed the greatest Consumption for our Woollen Manufactures that was ever known, as is very evident by the Increase of our Exports therein, from about 900,000 *l.* in 1663 and 1669, to 2,932,292 *l.* 17 *s.* 6 *d.* in 1699, as aforesaid.

I may then be allowed the Liberty to affirm, that the Encouragement which has been given to our Silk, Linen, and other Manufactures, has chiefly procured us *this amazing Increase of TWO MILLIONS per Ann.* in our Exportations; whereas *France* never took from us, at a Medium of any three Years, before their Woollen Manufacture was brought to Perfection, 200,000 *l.* What then can we now expect, when their unreasonable and extravagant Duties, fixed and adjusted by the present Treaty, will be an absolute Prohibition to the fair Trader?

But since our new Projects have been on foot to make *Great Britain* a Market for *French* Manufactures, these have given Strength and Vigour to the ambitious Designs of the *French*, and have put them upon enlarging their Trade

to all Countries ; and if once they were secure of a Liberty to import their Linens, Wrought Silks, &c. hither, their Woollen Manufacture would be absolutely established, and ours in proportion must decline.

Certainly therefore it's high time to look about us, to dissipate those Fears which have already caused such violent Convulsions in our home Trade, and struck so great a Damp on our Manufactures, by removing all Jealousy of opening a free Trade with *France*, and by making the utmost Efforts possible to stint the Growth of the Woollen Manufacture in *France*, before it is arrived at too great a Magnitude.

The only way to compass this, is, as I have already said, to promote and encourage our Exportation to those Countries that trade with us to our Advantage ; and also to exert ourselves vigorously in putting an entire Stop to the running of our Wool. In this Design I will cordially join Issue with the *Mercator*, and heartily wish that proper Measures than I can propose may be concerted, to restrain that pernicious and destructive Trade to our Country. However, I shall never believe we are really in earnest to prevent this abominable Practice, until,

*First*, We are obliged to keep a general Register of our Wool.

*Secondly*, That severe Penalties be inflicted on those who transgress the Laws.

*Thirdly*, That suitable Encouragement be given to the Informers and Seizers.

*Fourthly*, That a very easy Method be assigned

*The Way to  
prevent ex-  
porting our  
Wool.*

signed to recover the Seizures and Forfeitures without Cost or Delay. And,

*Fifthly*, That Men of Probity and Capacity, well vers'd in Trade, are intrusted with, and appointed to attend this important Affair, and to see that the Woollen Manufacture of Great Britain receives no Prejudice.

*Old Scheme  
further  
vindicated.*

But I must remember that the *Mercator* having attack'd the Vindication of the Old Scheme, I am obliged once more to enter the Lists with that Writer, who, without any regard to the Challenge he gave in his Paper No. 36. instead of examining whether it's right or wrong, or confuting any one Argument which was brought to justify either the Scheme it self, or the Valuation of the Particulars, runs a tilt at the whole, and, with his usual Ingenuity and Integrity, asserts, No. 165. That,

*We have the Assurance to publish again this Scheme, without taking one Step to prove its Solidity, without making any Amendments to it where we know it to be deficient, and without making any Defence for it against those just Objections which have been made, whereby it has been proved to be a scandalous Forgery, and the Names to it being upon good Grounds supposed to be forged also.*

This is a Charge so apparently false, and so readily detected by every one who has had the Curiosity examine that Account, that it is inconceivable how the *Mercator* could thus indiscreetly expose himself to the just Censure of all his Opposers; were it not evident that this old Scheme roots out all his Arguments, contradicts all his Sophistry, and proves all his Notions relating

relating to the Opening of a free Trade with France to be as deceitful as absurd ; and therefore he is still for the *Shortest* and the *Modern Way*.

But since he is still dissatisfied with my Arguments to make good the Old Scheme, without answering any one, I shall give him one which he will never be able to answer, and that is from certain Extracts from the Report of the Lords Commissioners of Trade to his late Majesty, dated the 23d of *December*, 1697.

“ From *France* the Importations have gradually encreased from *Anno* 1670 to the Beginning of the late War, in Wines, Brandies, Silks, Linen, and many Sorts of other Goods ; for tho’ there was a Prohibition of *French* Wine during some of those Years, yet it was brought in under other Names, and in the same Years our Exportations thither have decreased. The first Computation that we find of that Trade stands in the Books we have in our Custody, in a Report made by *Sir George Downing*, then one of the Commissioners of the Customs, to the Lords of the Privy-Council, then a Committee for Trade, dated the 9th of *March*, 1675. where it is calculated, that in one Year there were imported from *France*.

*Sir George Downing's Report.*

“ As many Silks as amounted to	300000	The Quantity of several Commodities imported from France in 1675.
“ Linens —————	500700	
“ Wines 11000 Tuns } computed }	217000	
“ Brandies 4000 Tuns } together at }		
“ which with Salt, Paper, Pruens, Vinegar, and other Commodities, upon the first Cost	“ in	

“ in *France*, amounted in all to 1136150*l*.  
 “ 4 *s*. Sterling, besides Points, Laces, and  
 “ what was brought in privately.

“ And that our Exports to *France* the  
 “ same Year amounted to but 171021 *l*. 6*s*.  
 “ 8 *d*.

“ And although we believe that the Linen  
 “ and Silks are over-valued in the said Report,  
 “ yet we suppose that the Goods then brought  
 “ in privately (not there estimated) and the In-  
 “ crease of the Importation of Wine and Bran-  
 “ dy after that time, are equivalent to that our  
 “ Valuation.

*Wine and  
 Brandy im-  
 ported in  
 1685.*

“ For by other Computations we are in-  
 “ formed, that *Anno* 1685 the Wines impor-  
 “ ted thence amounted to above 20000 Tuns,  
 “ and the Brandies 6000 Tuns; and by the  
 “ Receipt of the Excise it appears, that in the  
 “ Year, ending at *Midsummer* 1689, the Im-  
 “ ports of Brandies amounted to 8,000 Tuns,  
 “ of which we suppose very little came then  
 “ from any Place but *France*; and we are in-  
 “ formed, that the Wines that Year exceeded  
 “ 20,000 Tuns.

*And 1689.*

“ And the *French* King having, *Anno* 1654,  
 “ 1660, 1664, and 1667, encreased the Du-  
 “ ties on our Woollen Goods, and on our  
 “ Lead, Tin, Coals, Tobacco, Sugar, Fish,  
 “ and other Commodities, which are usually  
 “ imported into his Dominions; and also laid  
 “ an Imposition of 50 Sols *Tournois* per Tun  
 “ on all *English* Ships, and restrained the Im-  
 “ portation of Woollen Manufactures to his  
 “ Ports of *Calais* and *Diepe*, and other Goods  
 “ to some other inconvenient Ports:

“ And



“ And in *Anno* 1686 laid great Duties on  
“ all *East-India* Goods, and restrained their  
“ Importation also to select Ports ; and at the  
“ same time, and otherwise encouraging the  
“ Consumption of the Cloth, Stuffs, Silks,  
“ and other Goods made by his own People ;  
“ all which amounted to a Prohibition in many  
“ Cases in receiving Goods from *England* :  
“ We are of Opinion, that we have been  
“ over-ballanced in that Trade in most of the  
“ said Years about one Million *per Annum*.

“ TO REMEDY the Inconveniences that  
“ may be apprehended by a Trade with *France*,  
“ being the Goods formerly imported from  
“ thence did so much exceed our Exports, and  
“ may again, if that Trade be laid open, and  
“ this Nation should run into the like fond  
“ Expence of Commodities from thence, before  
“ your Majesty be assured of a Relaxation  
“ of the Edicts there, and such Freedom  
“ allowed to your Subjects as may afford a  
“ mutual Conveniency by the Consumption  
“ of your Goods there ; seeing the *French*  
“ King did by several Edicts and Tariffs before  
“ the late War impose such Duties and  
“ Restraints upon many of the Goods usually  
“ exported hence, as amounted to a Prohibition ;  
“ and hath (as we are informed) since the late  
“ Peace, by an Edict of the 19th of *October* last,  
“ in general Words referring to all Nations, confirmed  
“ the same with some additional Severities, and expressly  
“ prohibited the Importation of the most valuable  
“ *East-India* Goods ; we humbly conceive that the  
“ Duties and Impositions now charged on  
“ *French*

“ *French* Goods cannot be taken off, without  
 “ laying this Nation open to a great Disad-  
 “ vantage by that Trade, till by a Treaty of  
 “ Commerce, Matters relating to Trade can  
 “ be settled upon such Conditions as may pre-  
 “ vent the like Over-balance for the future.

“ And whereas Trade depends on Sale and  
 “ Consumption, and that nothing but a lessen-  
 “ ing of the Expence of *French* Goods can  
 “ probably reduce that Trade; we humbly  
 “ propose, that the wearing and using of our  
 “ home made Silks, Cloths, Stuffs, and other  
 “ useful Goods, may be encouraged by your  
 “ Majesty’s Royal Example, and the Exam-  
 “ ple of your Court; and that the Manufac-  
 “ tures in this Kingdom of Lustrings and A-  
 “ lamodes, and of all other Silks, and of Li-  
 “ nen and Paper, may be promoted; which  
 “ may be a Means not only to lessen the Im-  
 “ portations from *France*, but to give a large  
 “ Employment to your People here.

*The Quanti-  
 ty of Bran-  
 dy then im-  
 ported from  
 France.*

“ And whereas Brandy before the Year  
 “ 1660 was imported in so small Quantities,  
 “ that we do not find any mention of it in  
 “ the Book of Rates then made, and the Ex-  
 “ pence of it hath since increased to near 8000  
 “ Tuns *per Annum*, which, reckoning one sort  
 “ with another at 20 *l. per Tun*, may cost in  
 “ *France* near 160,000 *l.* annually, seeing it  
 “ hath been found by Experience to have oc-  
 “ casioned Debauchery, prejudicial to the  
 “ Health of your Majesty’s Subjects and Loss  
 “ of many of their Lives, and proved a great  
 “ Hindrance to the Consumption of Malt; it  
 “ it could be totally prohibited, we humbly  
 “ conceive

“ conceive it would be for the Good of your  
“ People, and Ease of the Nation in carrying  
“ on this Trade.”

I must here take leave to make some Observations and Reflections upon the above-cited Extracts of the Commissioners Report in 1697.

And in the first Place I must observe, that the Authority of the OLD SCHEME is confirmed and established by this Report.

The Report gives us the very same Articles of imported Goods from *France*, viz. of Silk, Linen, Wine, Brandy, Salt, Pruens, Paper, Vinegar, and other Commodities; and, just as the OLD SCHEME, makes the Cost of the whole Imports amount to 1,136,150 *l.* 4 *s.* Sterling, and that of the whole Exports to no more than 171,021 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.*

This very Computation the Commissioners affirm they found in a Report made the 9th of *March*, 1675, by *Sir George Downing*, then one of the Commissioners of the Customs, to the Lords of the Privy-Council, then a Committee of Trade.

So that here is the Authority of *Sir George Downing*, a Commissioner of the Customs at that very time, for the OLD SCHEME, against the Gentlemen who are now in that Commission. Let the *Mercator* then inform us to which of the two the most Credit ought to be given in this Matter, to *Sir George Downing*, who was a Commissioner at the very time when the OLD SCHEME was made, and who handed it to the Lords of the Privy-Council; or to the present Commissioners, who were since constituted during the present  
Admini-

Administration, and at so great a Distance from that Transaction? Is it more likely that the OLD SCHEME was forged, or the *Custom-house* Entries from whence the Report of the present Commissioners was taken? Would Sir *George Downing*, or the Commissioners of the Customs in his time, have had the Confidence to have forg'd that SCHEME, if there had been Entries then in being to contradict them? And if there are now any such Entries, is it not very natural to believe they were forg'd since that time to serve a Turn, perhaps to procure a Repeal of that Prohibition of 1678, which is said to have been founded upon the Credit of that SCHEME?

I desire the *Mercator*, or the present Commissioners of the Customs, will find out some Answer to this Argument; for till they do, the OLD SCHEME is established in every Article, and the Report of the present Commissioners can never stand before it.

And yet allowing that Report to stand, one of my Correspondents has so well justified so many Articles of the OLD SCHEME, and shewn the Variation in the general Ballance of Trade, as it would stand upon the Report of the present Commissioners of the Customs, from that of the SCHEME, to be such a Trifle, that it was not worth my while to dwell upon this Argument. But when such an Opportunity came in my way, I could not forbear, adding the Weight of Sir *George Downing's* Authority to that of the worthy Gentlemen who were the Subscribers of the SCHEME.

The next thing to be observed in the Ex-

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tracts, is, That even during the Prohibition *French* Wines were brought in under other Names. I believe so too. The *Mercator* has said the same thing, and that it was done by the Connivance of the Commissioners of the Customs: If it was, we are not to wonder at the late Report of the Commissioners, which contradicts in a few trivial Instances the OLD SCHEME. If a Court can give such Orders, and the Commissioners of the Customs will obey them, we may very well account for the Entries from whence the present Commissioners took their last Report: They were very probable made by Order or Connivance.

A third thing to be observed, is, That the Commissioners in 1697 imagine that the Linens and Silks are over-valued in the OLD SCHEME. They only imagine so; they have not produc'd one Argument for their Imagination. For my own part, I imagine the direct contrary; and I believe have shewn by the Authority of the *Inspector-General* and Merchants, that the Linens are not over-valued, and that the Silks are greatly under-valued.

But 4thly, The Lords Commissioners in 1697 suppose, that the Goods then privately brought in (and not estimated in the Scheme) and the Increase of the Importation of Wine and Brandy after that time, are equivalent to that supposed Over-valuation. How! Goods clandestinely imported so very considerable! But the *Mercator* does not believe any such thing; he says, the *Custom-house* Entries can give us a true Account of all our Imports, but not of our Exports to any Country. Then it is certain



certain no Goods can be clandestinely imported; for such as are, are never entered.

5thly, How often has the *Mercator* been offended with the 11000 Tuns of Wine, and 4000 Tuns of Brandy in the SCHEME? But it seems the Lords Commissioners in 1697 are of a very different Opinion, they near double the Quantities of those Goods for other Years.

6thly, These Gentlemen are of opinion, we have been over-ballanced in the *French Trade* about one Million *per ann.* I believe most Merchants will think them very modest: Almost that Loss may be made out by *Custom-house Entries*, besides such Allowance as ought to be made for clandestine Importations. The *Mercator* is of another Mind; he says, *it was ALWAYS BENEFICIAL to the Nation*, and sometimes says he has proved it. I wish I could see but any one thing that looks like a Proof, I would give over writing any more.

7thly, The said Lords Commissioners in 1697 are of opinion, that our first Remedy against losing such an Over-balance, is to keep on our present high Duties, or procure such a Treaty of Commerce as shall let our Goods into *France* to as great a Value, as the *French* can send to *England*. We are sure they are in the right as to high Duties; we can only get by the *French Trade*, when we keep out as much as possible the Goods and Merchandizes of that Nation. As for a Treaty of Commerce that would enable us to save by that Trade, I wish the *Mercator*, or any one else, could shew what Treaty would be sufficient for that Purpose. I am very sure the late Treaty

is not; it puts *France* on as good a Condition for Trading with *England*, as every other Nation, and leaves still standing in *France* all necessary Prohibitions and high Duties on the Goods and Merchandizes of *England*: It must certainly increase their Importations into *England*, but cannot increase our Exportations to that Country.

8thly, I have often shewn, that our Trade, as is said in this Report, *depends on Sale and Consumption*; and have therefore every where recommended the use of our own, and discouraged the use of *French* Silks, Linen, Paper, &c. My chief Aim has been the Increase of our Rents, and, as the Report says, *to give a large Employment to our People here*. I am persuaded the *Mercator* and his Abettors have nothing of this at Heart.

Lastly, The Commissioners in 1697 would totally prohibit Brandy, the Expence of which they suppose might formerly cost the Nation, 160,000 *l per ann.* and hinder a vast Consumption of OUR MALT. These Gentlemen were for the Interest of the Nation; and for the same Reason I could wish effectual Care could be taken to prevent the Importation of foreign Brandy under any Duties less than the present. But the *Mercator* would gladly have *France* as much favoured as any other Nation.

*An Answer to all the Exports to France at the End of the Mercators. In which is shewn that,*

*Foreign Goods exported now to France, are no Argument for the Bill of Commerce, but rather an Argument against it.*

*Corn and other Provisions, as also Lead and Tin in those Lists, are no Argument for it. Neither are our Woollen Manufactures.*

*The whole Exports of Woollen Manufactures to France last Year were not 100000*l*. Value. The whole exported to Dunkirk is Custom-free, and that Place is sufficient to consume all that are sent to France.*

*The Mercator convicted of Forgery or Folly.*

*The French have Wool sufficient for all Parts of the Woollen Manufacture without applying to England.*

*An Arrest of the French King's against using the Stuffs of India, China, &c. With Reflections on it.*

**I** Believe I have suffer'd the *Mercator* to go on for 40 or 50 times with a List of Goods exported to *France* at the end of his Papers, without vouchsafing any Answer to this Argument, or rather to these Pieces of an Argument; for I could never think them worth an Answer.

At the end of the *Mercator* it is common to see in Capital Letters,

FROM THE CUSTOM-HOUSE,

Goods exported to France, in one, two, three, four, five, six, or seven Days.

Ans

And then follow his Parcels of Woollen Manufactures, dying Goods, Lead, Tin, Corn, and other Provisions, which in that Compass of Time are entered out to *France* from the Port of *London*, to amuse his Readers, and make them believe our Exports to that Nation are prodigious, even now, tho' the Treaty of Commerce is not made effectual, and under the Disadvantage of the present Duties and Prohibitions.

And how much then are they to imagine our Exports shall be increased, when by rendering the Treaty effectual the *French* Prohibitions shall be repealed, and their Duties shall be reduced to the moderate Tariff of 1664?

I answer, They are not likely to be increas'd at all; for,

1<sup>st</sup>, As I have often said, no Prohibitions on foreign Goods exported from this Kingdom are repealed by this Treaty; since by the very Words of the Treaty, the Prohibitions to be repealed are only such as concern the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*, *Bona merce*; *Magnæ Britannia*; since after a whole Year's Sollicitation *France* has not yet condescended to explain, that by Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain* shall be understood those foreign Growth, or Manufacture exported from *Great Britain*; so that all Prohibitions on these Goods are to remain in their full force, not any one of them is repealed by any Clause in the late Treaty, and consequently we shall send no greater Quantities of *East-India* or *Turkey* Goods to *France* than we do already;

*The French Prohibition of our foreign Goods not repealed by the Treaty*

ready ; no greater Quantities of dying Goods, for these also are the Growth of foreign Nations.

*Prohibitions  
in France  
dispens'd  
with to  
serve a Turn.*

It is indeed true, that some Parcels of these Goods are exported even now to *France*. That Prince is accustomed to dispense with his Prohibitions to supply any present Wants or Exigencies of his Subjects ; and it is not improbable that he dispenses with them at this time as a Shooing-horn to the Bill of Commerce, and to get the Treaty made effectual. But he is not obliged to repeal or dispense with them by this Treaty ; and when it shall be made effectual by a Law, when we shall have obliged ourselves to let in an Inundation of Wines, Linen, Silk, Paper and other Commodities and Manufactures of that Nation, he will then enjoin a more strict Execution of his Prohibitions on our foreign Goods, he is under no Obligation not to do it by the late Treaty.

The Goods therefore of the *East-Indies* and the *Levant*, the several sorts of dying Wares which we read in the *Mercator's* Lists of exported Goods to *France*, are no Argument at all for the Bill of Commerce. Our Exportation of these Goods will not be increas'd by the Treaty : on the contrary, if his most Christian Majesty suffers greater Quantities of them to be imported now, than he will be obliged to do after the Treaty shall be made effectual ; if he does this, that we may be his Bubbles, and oblige ourselves to let in an Inundation of Manufactures from his Countries, that when this Point is gained, he may then be more strict than he is at present in the Execution of his Prohibitions ;



hibitions; then all the foreign Goods which we read in the *Mercator's* Lists are so many Arguments why we ought never to pass the Bill of Commerce, since the passing of that Bill, instead of increasing, may prove a means to lessen our Exportations in respect to foreign Goods. He suffers us to export them now, because he has a Turn to serve; when the Turn is served, he may without any breach of Treaty prevent our Exportation.

2dly, We read great Quantities of Corn and other Provisions exported to *France* in the *Mercator's* Lists; but what Argument is this for the Bill of Commerce? The *French* People, when they are almost starving for want of Bread, buy great Quantities of Bread from *England*; and his most Christian Majesty, to save the Lives of his Subjects, suffers it to be imported Custom free. What Reason is this for rendering the Treaty effectual? He suffers his People to buy Bread from us Custom-free without this Treaty; and shall we import it upon better Terms than Custom-free when the Treaty shall be made effectual? The not rendering it effectual does not hinder our selling such Quantities of Corn as are wanted in the *French* Nation, and the rendering it effectual will not enable us to sell any when they do not want it. The Corn therefore, and Provisions, which we read in the *Mercator's* Lists of exported Goods, are nothing to his Purpose, are no Argument why we should pass the Bill of Commerce.

*Corn imported Custom-free in times of Scarcity in France.*

There are among the *Mercator's* exported Goods some Parcels of Lead and Tin; and as

*France* has none of these Commodities of her own Growth, has constant Occasion for about 30 or 40000 *l.* value of these Goods *per ann.* and can no otherwise be supplied than from this Kingdom, she must have them at all times whether of War, or Peace; and even during the last War, she procured as much as she wanted by the way of neutral Countries. It is of no great Importance therefore to us, whether the *French* Duties on our Lead or Tin, are by the Tariff of 1664, or by any higher Tariff; *France* must take from us what she wants, and the easiest Tariff will not make her take a much greater Quantity, since it would be ridiculous for her to import much more than is necessary for the annual Consumption of her People. I verily believe the least Duties or none at all on our Lead and Tin, would hardly enable us to sell to *France* above the Value of 10 or 15000 *l.* of those Commodities more than we do at present; and would it be worth our while for this Profit to pass the Bill of Commerce, and to let in an Inundation of Wine, Silks, Linens, Paper, and other Commodities from *France*, as we did heretofore, and for which we shall be forc'd to pay not with Lead or Tin, but with the vital Treasure of the Nation?

The thing which I have reserved to speak of in the last place, is that which always stands first in the *Mercator's* Lists, *viz.* our Woollen Manufactures.

In the Front of all his daily Entries for *France*, there are constantly several Parcels of Woollen Manufactures, without any Valuation,

on, that his Readers may believe the whole Year's Value is prodigious.

Besides, he often takes care to inform us they are now exported to *France* under a heavy Load of Duties, about 70 *per Cent.* as he sometimes tells us of their full Value ; but by the Tariff of 1664, he often tells us the Duties are not above 10 *per Cent.* and that the late Treaty of Commerce reduces all to that Tariff, two Species only excepted, *viz.* Cloth and Mill'd Serges ; nay, in his No. 75. he makes a Correspondent of his from *Paris* value the Duties by that Tariff at no more than 5 *per Cent.* (but 'tis no great matter whether he is consistent with himself or his Correspondents, the Readers to whom he applies are not very nice, and they must not be so unmannerly as to remember his Contradictions) and if such prodigious Quantities are exported under the present Load of Duties, how much greater would be exported by the Tariff of 1664, to which they are reduc'd by the late Treaty ?

Now I ask every one of the *Mercator's* Readers what he thinks of his daily Entries of our Woollen Manufactures for *France* ? What does he think they will amount to in a Year ? Would it be worth the *Mercator's* while to stuff every Paper with a long Catalogue, if the Catalogue of a whole Year would not amount to 10000 l ? Can any Man imagine he does not design to impose upon them a Belief that our present annual Exports of Woollen Manufactures for *France* from the Port of *London* are above 20 times that Value ?

I shall therefore present my Readers at once with all the Entries of Woollen Manufactures that have been made for *France* from the Port of *London* in one whole Year from *Christmas* 1712. to *Christmas* 1713. which are as follow.

<i>Species of Goods.</i>	<i>Entered to Dunkirk.</i>	<i>To other Ports.</i>	<i>Total to France.</i>
Stuffs	1641	37	1678
Serges	134		134
Penistons	10		10
Double Bays	13		13
Single Bays	6		6
Spanish Cloths	132		132
White Cloths	2		2
Long Cloths	23		23
Short Cloths	65		65
Double Dozens	59		59
Single Dozens	54		54
Kerseyes	99		99
Frieze Yards	200		200
Cotton Goads	3800		3800
Flannel Yards	19570	689	20259
Woollen Cloth	110	20	130
Hose Dozen	291	5½	296½
Hats Dozen	31	6	37
Perpets	30	2	32
Blankets		6	6

Besides Garments for *Dunkirk*, which may be presumed to have been exported chiefly for our own Garifon, and not as any Part of our Trade to *France*.

Now I will defy the *Mercator*, or any other Person whatsoever, to make the whole Value of all these Goods amount to the Sum of 10,000

000 *l.* And is this a Sum for a whole Year to be distributed to us in Parcels almost three times every Week? But doubtless his Intent was that his Readers should believe, and many, no doubt, are so unwary, as to believe from his weekly Scraps, that our Exports of Woollen Manufactures to *France* for the whole Year are many times the Value of 10,000 *l.* even under the present Burden of high Duties.

But such a Trifle as it is, what Reason have we to believe that it is exported to *France* under the present heavy Duties? I desire my Reader will cast his Eye back to the above-mentioned Table; he will there see that almost the whole Exports are made to *Dunkirk*, which is a free Port, and where no Customs at all are paid; and that it is a Trifle indeed, not the Value of 200 *l.* which was exported to all the other Ports of *France*. It looks as if an Essay had been made to export our Woollen Manufactures to other Ports of *France*, but that it was found impracticable and given over.

*Dunkirk*, as I have said, is a free Port; no Customs are paid there, and it appears that almost all our Woollen Manufactures entered for *France* are exported for that City; how then can the *Mercator* pretend that our Woollen Manufactures are exported to *France* under the present Load of Duties, indeed under any Duties at all?

Yet the *Mercator* has pretended this in a Letter which he has counterfeited from a Correspondent in *Dunkirk*, which is to be seen in his No. 75.

He makes his *Dunkirk* Correspondent say,  
R 4
That



*The Mercator's forg'd Letter from Dunkirk, with Remarks on it.*

That they have great Quantities of the Woollen Manufactures of England in that City; That they get them there two ways, by running them on shore clandestinely; That this was the easier to do by the great Number of Ships loaden thither with Corn and Coals since the Peace, all which brought Woollen Manufactures, which were run ashore without paying the Duties; that the Farmers of the Customs perceiving this, thought it their best way to treat with the Merchants, and accordingly agreed to take 25 per Cent. less than the full Duties; so that now all sorts of our Woollen Manufactures are sold in Dunkirk almost as openly as in any Town in Flanders, and are forwarded from thence to all Parts of France, and even to Paris it self: and the Correspondent says, he had just then received 32 Spanish Cloths ashore, which he had bought by Commission in London, and was then forwarding to Paris.

Several things are to be remark'd on this Letter, and the foregoing Exports to France.

And 1st, That the Letter never came from Dunkirk, but was forged here by the Mercator; or if it really came from Dunkirk, it was sent on purpose to abuse him. For a Dunkirk Man to tell us, that Goods are run clandestinely a shore in a free Port to save the Duties, or that our Merchants there agree with the Farmers of the Customs for an Abatement of 25 per Cent. of the Duties, in a Place where no Duties at all are paid, is ridiculous. No Man that lives in Dunkirk could be guilty of saying this. Some such thing might be expected from the WILD IRISH, and I believe that

that either the *Mercator* or his Director was a Native of that Country.

2dly, As for the Value of 10,000 *l.* in Woollen Manufactures to be sent to *Dunkirk*, where we had an *English* Garrison, and where it will be presumed that our own Officers would chuse to appear in the Manufactures of their native Country, it is nothing. It does not prove that we have sold any Woollen Manufactures at all to the *French* People.

3dly, But if we had not had an *English* Garrison, how inconsiderable a thing is the Value of 10,000 *l.* in Woollen Manufactures to be consumed by the Inhabitants of that City, where the *Sieur Tygghe* in his Memorial, says there are 18,000 Families? It is not above 2 *s.* per Head; but whatsoever is consumed in *Dunkirk* is consumed without paying any Customs, and will not prove that our Woollen Manufactures are sent at this time to *France* under a heavy Load of Duties. In vain therefore does the *Mercator* tell us that our Goods are forwarded from *Dunkirk* to all other Parts of *France*, and even to *Paris* it self. No Man living will believe him, and how ridiculous is it to tell us he was just then forwarding 32 *Spanish* Cloths to *Paris*, when no more than 132 were imported into *Dunkirk* in a whole Year?

But lastly, What is 10,000 *l.* value of Woollen Manufactures to be sent to so great a Nation as *France*? It is not half a Farthing per Head for every one of their People. It might well be sent to *France* under any Duties; that Nation, which has not been so long at this Manufacture as our selves, may be thought to

take off as much as this for meer Patterns. It is melancholy Consideration, that we send neither openly nor clandestinely at this time to that Kingdom above the Value of 10,000 *l.* in Woollen Manufactures; it is a Sign they are very much improved; and for my own part I expect but little Help from the late Treaty of Commerce, which leaves from 30 to 50 *per Cent.* Duties on our Woollen Manufactures in that King. It is plain therefore the *French* have Woollen Manufactures enough of their own, to stand in no need of any at all from us; if they had not, no Duties would be sufficient to prevent our sending among them either fairly or clandestinely, greater Quantities than the Value of 10,000 *l. per Ann.* so small a Trifle for so great a Nation: and yet by the Entries it does not appear we send them any, since our People at *Dunkirk* were sufficient to take off all we sent thither.

I think therefore, for my own part, the *Mercator* had best keep to his Arguments against Owling, and recommend as much as possible the keeping our Wool at home, that the *French* may want the necessary Materials to carry on this Manufacture.

But alas, this will not do the Business; they can be in no want of Wool, tho' they should not be supplied with any from this Nation.

Yes, says the *Mercator*, No. 168. they may have *Spanish* Wool for *fine Cloth* and *fine Druggets*; but what is this to the *Gross* of our *Woollen Manufacture*, to our *double* and *single Dozens*, our *Yorkshire Cloths*, our *Western Whites*,

*Whites, our Kerseys, Bays, Norwich Stuffs, Exeter Serges, Says, Perpetuanas, Shalloons, Sagathies, and common Druggets? &c.*

One Point then, with much ado, I have at last gained of the *Mercator*, That there can be no Want of fine Wool in *France*. This is a very considerable Step indeed.

*How France may be furnished with coarse as well as fine Wool.*

I must inform him now, that they can have sufficient coarse Wool either to mix with their fine, or to make those other Manufactures, without coming into *England*.

I have shewn often that they have a good deal of their own; and if they had not, they could be supply'd with this also from *Spain* and *Portugal*.

We take from *Spain* only their fine *Segovia* Wool, which is sorted into Firsts, Seconds, and Thirds.

*We buy only the Spanish fine Segovia Wool.*

But the *Spanish* have several other Sorts, such as Wool of *Castile*, of *Arragon*, and other finer Sorts, from five Pence half-penny to six Pence *per lib.* which after being pick'd and cleansed, and thrown into proper Sorts, is worth from six Pence to ten Pence *per lib.* and answers all the Uses of *English* Wool. We buy only their best *Segovia* Wool, but the *French* great Quantities of all their other sorts. The *Portugal* Wool runs higher than the ordinary sorts of *Spain*, so that *France* without coming to us cannot want Wool for any part of the Woollen Manufacture.

Since the *Mercator* has so much amused his Readers with his daily Entries for *France*, and I have so fully answered all that he had given from the *Custom-house* from *Christmas* 1712 to *Christ-*

*Christmas 1713*, without his offering the least Reply to any one of my Arguments; and since even in his last there are some Entries of *East-India* Goods for *France*, to make his Readers believe that we shall make vast Exportations of those Goods when the Treaty of Commerce shall be made effectual; to undeceive those unwary Persons, and also to represent to the *East-India* Company how little they will be benefited by that Treaty, I shall give them a Translation of an Edict of his most Christian Majesty of the 11th of this Instant *June* (New Stile) which is as follows.

*Arrest of the King's Council of State, containing Regulations on white and painted Callicoes, Muslins, and Stuffs, from the Indies, China, and the Levant; and Orders to mark all HOUSHOLD FURNITURE made of the same: With new Prohibitions not to trade in them, nor to use them either in Clothes or HOUSHOLD FURNITURES. The 11th of June 1714.*

*Extracted from the Registers of the Council of State.*

“ THE King having been informed that  
 “ the trading in, and the use of the  
 “ Stuffs, Muslins, and white and painted  
 “ Callicoes of the *Indies*, of *China*, and of  
 “ the *Levant*; and of all other sorts of Linen  
 “ Cloth and Stuffs dyed, painted, and stained  
 “ either within or without the Kingdom, was  
 “ not



“ not absolutely ceased, as well in Household  
“ Furnitures as in Cloth and wearing Appa-  
“ rel, but that some Persons still continue to  
“ make use of them in their Houses and other  
“ Places, notwithstanding his Majesty’s Pro-  
“ hibition by divers Arrests, and renewed by  
“ that of the 27th of *August* 1709; as also that  
“ fundry of the said Callicoes and Stuffs that  
“ are seized and condemned, are oftentimes  
“ not burnt nor exported into foreign Coun-  
“ tries; and that the Seizers and Informers  
“ are sometimes deprived of part of the Re-  
“ compence they should have had according  
“ to his Majesty’s Intentions; against which  
“ his Majesty being desirous to provide, in or-  
“ der to secure the Execution of the said Ar-  
“ rest of the 27th of *August* 1709, entirely to  
“ abolish the trading in, and the use of the  
“ said Stuffs and Callicoes, which are so sen-  
“ sibly prejudicial to the Manufactures of the  
“ Kingdom: To prevent that those which  
“ shall or may happen hereafter to be seized  
“ and condemned, be not sold and used in the  
“ Kingdom, and to procure to those who shall  
“ have informed against the Offenders, or  
“ made any Seizures, some speedy and certain  
“ Gratifications that may excite their Zeal  
“ and Vigilance; having heard the Report of  
“ the *Sieur Desmaretz*, Counsellor in ordina-  
“ ry in the Royal Council, Comptroller-Ge-  
“ neral of the Finances.

*Article I.*

“ His Majesty in his Council has ordained,  
“ and ordains, that the Arrest of the 27th of  
“ *August*

“ *August* 1709 be executed according to its  
 “ Form and Tenor; and in consequence  
 “ thereof, his Majesty very expressly prohibits  
 “ and forbids, on the Penalties therein con-  
 “ tained, all Merchants, Traders, Pawn-  
 “ brokers, Taylors, Sewers, Upholsterers,  
 “ Embroiderers, and other Workmen, and all  
 “ other Persons of what Quality and Condi-  
 “ tion soever, to trade in, expose to Sale, sell,  
 “ vend, buy, either by wholesale or retail, to  
 “ wear, to clothe themselves, employ, or  
 “ cause to be employed, in Household Furni-  
 “ tures, Cloth, and Wearing Apparel, either  
 “ within or without their Houses, Places pri-  
 “ vileged or not privileged, any Stuffs of all  
 “ Silk, or mixed with Gold and Silver, Her-  
 “ ba, Wool, Cotton, and all other sorts of  
 “ Stuffs; as also any Muslins, and white Cal-  
 “ licoes or stained, within or without the  
 “ Kingdom, new or old, of the Growth of  
 “ the *Indies*, of *China*, and of the *Levant*;  
 “ except notwithstanding the Muslins and  
 “ white Callicoes imported from the *Indies*  
 “ by the *East-India* Company, and marked  
 “ according to the Arrests of the 28th of *A-*  
 “ *pril* 1710, and the 29th of *March* 1712.

*Article II.*

“ His Majesty forbids to all his Subjects,  
 “ on the Penalties mentioned in the said Ar-  
 “ rest, to stain, print, or cause to be stained  
 “ and printed on any white Callicoes, Linen,  
 “ Cloth made of Hemp, Thred and Flax,  
 “ Silk or Woollen Stuffs, or other sort of  
 “ Stuff new or old, even of the Growth or  
 “ Manu-

“ Manufacture of the Kingdom ; and to  
“ trade or traffick in, or to use the said Cloth  
“ and Stuffs stained and printed, either in the  
“ Kingdom or in foreign Countries.

*Article III.*

“ His Majesty ordains, that when, and as  
“ soon as any of the said Stuffs and Cloth are  
“ seized, the same be brought without delay  
“ to the nearest Office of the Farms, and put  
“ into the Hands of the Receivers and Comp-  
“ trollers, who shall be charged with them at  
“ the Rates of the Information of Seizures,  
“ and shall cause the same to be entered in  
“ their Registers.

*Article IV.*

“ After Judgment passed on the said Stuffs  
“ and Cloth, the said Receivers and Comp-  
“ troller shall be obliged to send them imme-  
“ diately to the *Custom-house* of the City of  
“ *Paris*, together with a Copy as well of the  
“ Judgment as of the Information of Seizure,  
“ and of the Inventory that has been taken of  
“ the said Goods, containing the Quantity,  
“ Quality, and Length of the said Stuffs and  
“ Cloth ; of which the Receiver and Comp-  
“ troller of the *Custom-house* at *Paris* shall  
“ keep a Register on purpose ; and they shall  
“ give to the Receivers and Comptrollers of  
“ the Provinces for their Discharge a Receipt  
“ perused by the General Farmers of his Ma-  
“ jesty.

*Article*

## Article V.

“ His Majesty wills, that over and above  
 “ the two thirds of the Forfeiture granted by  
 “ the Arrest of the 27th of *August* 1709 to  
 “ the Informers, and to the Inspectors of the  
 “ Manufactures, Officers of the Farms, and  
 “ other Persons who shall make Seizures,  
 “ there be made out to their Benefit by the  
 “ Farmers-General, within eight Days after  
 “ the said Stuffs and Cloth shall have been  
 “ brought to the *Custom-house* at *Paris*, an  
 “ Order on the Receiver-General of the  
 “ Farms where the Seizure was made, to pay  
 “ them the Gratifications following.

“ Ten Sols for every Ell of white or stain-  
 “ ed Callicoe, new or old, of what sort so-  
 “ ever they be.

“ Twenty Sols for every Ell of Muslin,  
 “ or Stuffs called *Herba*, painted Polongs,  
 “ Gæases, or Taffeties.

“ And three Livres for every Ell of Da-  
 “ mask or Silk Stuff mixed with Gold and  
 “ Silver.

## Article VI.

“ There shall be transmitted by the Far-  
 “ mers-General to the Comptrollers-General  
 “ of the Finances, a *Duplicate* of the Inven-  
 “ tory of the said Stuffs and Cloth to be by  
 “ him settled, the one half to be sold on con-  
 “ dition to be exported into foreign Coun-  
 “ tries, the Value of which shall be paid into  
 “ the Cash of the Farms; and the other half  
 “ to be burnt by Order of the Lieutenant-Ge-  
 “ neral of the Police of the said City, who shall

“ enter

“ enter Information of it, and cause a Copy  
“ thereof to be delivered to the Officers of  
“ the Customs for their Discharge.

*Article VII.*

“ The Buyers of the said Stuffs and Cloth  
“ shall give Security to the Farmers-General  
“ to bring, within three Months at farthest,  
“ a Certificate from the Officer of the Farms  
“ established at the last Office *on the Fron-*  
“ *tier*, by the Buyers first named, to justify  
“ the Exportation of the said Stuffs and Cloth  
“ out of the Kingdom, and a Certificate sign-  
“ ed by the Council of the *French Nation*,  
“ or by two *French* Traders and Merchants,  
“ to prove that the same have been landed in  
“ foreign Countries. His Majesty ordains,  
“ that they shall not be sent into any other  
“ Countries or States, but to *Sweden, Den-*  
“ *mark, Hanse-Towns*, the Sea-Ports in the  
“ *Baltick, Spain and Portugal*, except not-  
“ withstanding the Ports of *Bilboa, St. Se-*  
“ *bastian*, and others of the Provinces of *Gui-*  
“ *puscoa, Biscay, and Catalonia*. His Majesty  
“ very expressly prohibits and forbids the said  
“ Buyers to do any thing in contravention to  
“ this Article; to the Execution of which, as  
“ likewise to the Payment of the Purchase-  
“ Money, they, together with the Masters of  
“ the Ships, shall be jointly obliged and for-  
“ ced by all manner of Ways and Means,  
“ even by Seizure of their Bodies.

*Ar-*



*Article VIII.*

“ His Majesty likewise ordains, That  
“ within three Months from the Day of the  
“ Publication of this present Arrest, all Per-  
“ sons of what Quality and Condition soever,  
“ shall deliver to the Lieutenant-General of  
“ the Police, or those deputed by him, in the  
“ City, Suburbs and Bayliffship of *Paris*, and  
“ in the Provinces to the Intendants and Com-  
“ missaries respectively, their Deputies, or o-  
“ ther Persons by them appointed for that pur-  
“ pose, exact Accounts of all Household Fur-  
“ niture in their Possession, of what nature  
“ or sort soever, made with any of the said  
“ Stuffs and Cloth; and to cause to be fixed  
“ to them the Mark which shall be appointed  
“ by the said Lieutenant-General of the Po-  
“ lice, Intendants, or Commissaries respec-  
“ tively. His Majesty wills, That after that  
“ time all the said Household Furniture not  
“ marked be seized and condemned in the  
“ Hands of the Offenders, who shall over  
“ and above be condemned to pay a Fine of  
“ 1000 Livres.

*Article IX.*

“ His Majesty permits the Proprietors of  
“ the said Household Furniture to sell and dis-  
“ pose freely of them during the said Term of  
“ three Months; after which time his Maje-  
“ sty forbids, under the same Penalties to be  
“ incurred as well by the Buyer as the Seller,  
“ to sell any of them, even those Household  
“ Fur-

“ Furnitures so marked, unless it be by public Authority.

*Article X.*

“ His Majesty enjoins all Judges, Commissioners, Notaries, Serjeants, Ushers, and other Officers of Justice, even to them who belong to the Lords, on pain of Suspension, one thousand Livres penalty, and to answer in their proper and private Names, and the Penalties to be absolute; to give notice to the Lieutenant-General of the Police, Intendants, and Commissioners respectively of all the Household Furniture made of the said Stuffs and Cloth, marked and not marked, that shall be found among the Household Goods and Effects of the Parties seized, or of Persons deceased, the same to be perused whether they are in the Accounts which shall have been delivered by the said Parties seized, or Persons deceased; and that the same be not delivered over for any Cause, or under pretence of any Execution whatsoever, nor proceed to a judicial Sale, or to the Inventory of them, until after such Examination be made.

*Article XI.*

“ His Majesty likewise enjoins the said Lieutenant-General of the Police, Intendants, and Commissioners respectively, on notice given them of Offences committed against this Arrest, to nominate Commissioners of the *Chatelet*, Deputies, or other  
“ Persons,

*The British Merchant.*

“ Persons, to assist without Cost and Expenses to the making the Inventories of the Household Goods only. And this present Arrest shall be read, published, and affixed where need shall be, that none may be ignorant thereof.” *Done at the King’s Council of State, held at Marly the 11th Day of June 1714.*

Signed

*Dujardin.*

Can any Man now that reads this Arrest believe that his most Christian Majesty has put his own Subjects under this severe Prohibition, that *England* may have the Monopoly of those Goods? No certainly; but he knows very well that this Arrest, even if the Treaty of Commerce should be made effectual, will as well prohibit the *English* Sellers as those of *France*. The Treaty of Commerce does not provide against it by repealing his Prohibitions *Quoad Bona Mercesque Magnæ Britanniae*. After a whole Year’s Sollicitation he is not yet brought to explain, that Goods of foreign Growth and Manufacture are the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain*; and therefore he is at liberty to prohibit these as he thinks fit, notwithstanding any Words in the late Treaty.

But to shew how resolved and determined his Majesty is against suffering the Use of these  
 Stuffs,

Stuffs, &c. in his Kingdom, he will not so much as endure that any Household Furniture should be made of them; and that there may be no possibility of wearing or using any of these Goods, and passing them upon the Officers for the Growth and Manufacture of *France*, Printing and Staining of all Manufactures, whether new or old, whether made within the Kingdom or without, are so expressly forbid in the second Article. He has in the fifth Article too made the Penalties for the Informer so very great, and taken such Order for the Payment, that this is an Arrest, which cannot fail to execute it self. In the sixth and seventh he has taken such strict Order too for the burning one half of all Seizures, and the Exportation of the other to foreign Countries, that we may see he is fully determined that a single Yard of them shall not be used in his own Dominions.

But one thing is remarkable in the Article of Exportation: He allows it only to be made at *Sweden*, *Denmark*, the *Hans Towns*, the Sea Ports in the *Baltick*, *Spain*, and *Portugal*, excepting the Ports of *Bilboa*, *St. Sebastian*, and others of the Provinces of *Guipuscoa*, *Biscay*, and *Catalonia*; so that 'tis plain he not only forbids the Use of them in his own Country, but will not suffer them to be exported to any other where they may interfere with the Manufactures of his own People, which would be the Case if they should be exported to *Guipuscoa*, *Biscay*, and *Catalonia*. This perhaps may look strange, if he cannot hinder other Countries from being otherwise

therwise supplied. However, it shows his Majesty's Zeal for promoting his own Manufactures.

The *English* Nation, and especially the *East India* Company, may now hope, if they can, that *France* is to be the Market for our *East India* or Woollen Manufactures; but I believe they both have long given over all such Hopes.

I hope by this time my Readers are thoroughly convinc'd of the destructive Consequences of opening the Trade to *France*, upon the Terms of the Treaty, or indeed upon any Terms whatsoever; that none of our Manufactures, Home, or Foreign, can ever be sold in *France*; and that it is better for us never to have any open Trade with them, but to lay a general Prohibition on all Commodities imported from thence, for they have none that we want, or what it is not our Interest to be without: on the contrary we have several Commodities which they cannot be without, but must have, and will have, either directly or at second hand; and whatever they amount to, is so much clear Gain to the Nation. This, in my Opinion, is the best, and only advantageous Foot we can fix our Trade to *France* upon. As to the Notion of *establishing a Trade with France, that shall be reciprocally beneficial to each Nation*, I take it to be a thing impracticable; for *France* will never permit us to import thither any Commodities, Fish, or Manufactures, that will in any degree be detrimental to their  
Product,



Product, Manufactures, or Fisheries. On the other hand, we ought in this Point to be as wise as the *French*, and never to admit from thence any of their Product, Manufactures, or Fish; all which does most essentially hurt us, either in our Manufactures, our Fisheries, or some Branch of Trade or other. We may as well confine two Woollen Drapers, two Mercers, two Linen-Drapers, two Stationers, and two Fishermen, to deal only with each other, and expect there will be a reciprocal Gain to each, as ever to expect there will be a reciprocal Gain between us and *France*. If the Trade to *France* should ever be established upon this Foot, as we despise the Notion of ever being out-done by a Nation we have so often beat at the Sword, so will it be out of the Power of so deceitful and chicaning a People ever to out-do us again at the Pen, at least in Matters of Trade.

*The End of the Second Volume.*

